# Bali bombing suspect claims he trained MILF rebels

Story on PAGE A2

JOAN BONDOC

**SURVIVING** the tragedy at sea with her eldest child, Yolanda Favillaran can't survive her grief over the loss of her four children.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Thursday, May 29, 2003 ★★★ 48 pages / 4 sections / vol. 18 / no. 170 P15

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- **NPAs burn Globe cell site in Sorsogon**
  ACROSS/A12
- **Sanction on Iraq lifted**
  WORLD/A9

# Rotting radar could have averted ferry collision

**By Luige del Puerto and Tina Santos**

RADAR equipment worth P1.2 billion could have prevented the collision between two passenger ferries in Manila Bay on Sunday that left 28 people dead.

The pieces of equipment, however, are rotting, the Philippine Coast Guard said yesterday.

The Department of Transportation and Communication bought the radar equipment in the 1990s. Some were used only briefly, while others were never used at all because of technical problems arising from the contracts.

"We are operating blind. We have the tools to monitor sea vessels, but we cannot use them because of technical problems," said Commander Luis Imperial, the Coast Guard's chief of the Weapons, Communications, Electronics and Information System.

Despite the terrible conditions at sea, the Coast Guard continued yesterday its search for the victims of the collision between the MV San Nicolas and Super Ferry 12. The past two days, five bodies surfaced in Cavite, Navotas and Bulacan. Three were found to be passengers of the San Nicolas.

Two women were identified by their kin as Angelita Caabay Odasco and Lorilie Ilaya, both from Coron, Palawan. Odasco's body was found in the Parola Compound

ROTTING/ A17

# MILF declares ceasefire

## *GMA to rebel leaders: Show sincerity first*

**By Edwin O. Fernandez and Julie S. Alipala**
*PDI Mindanao Bureau*

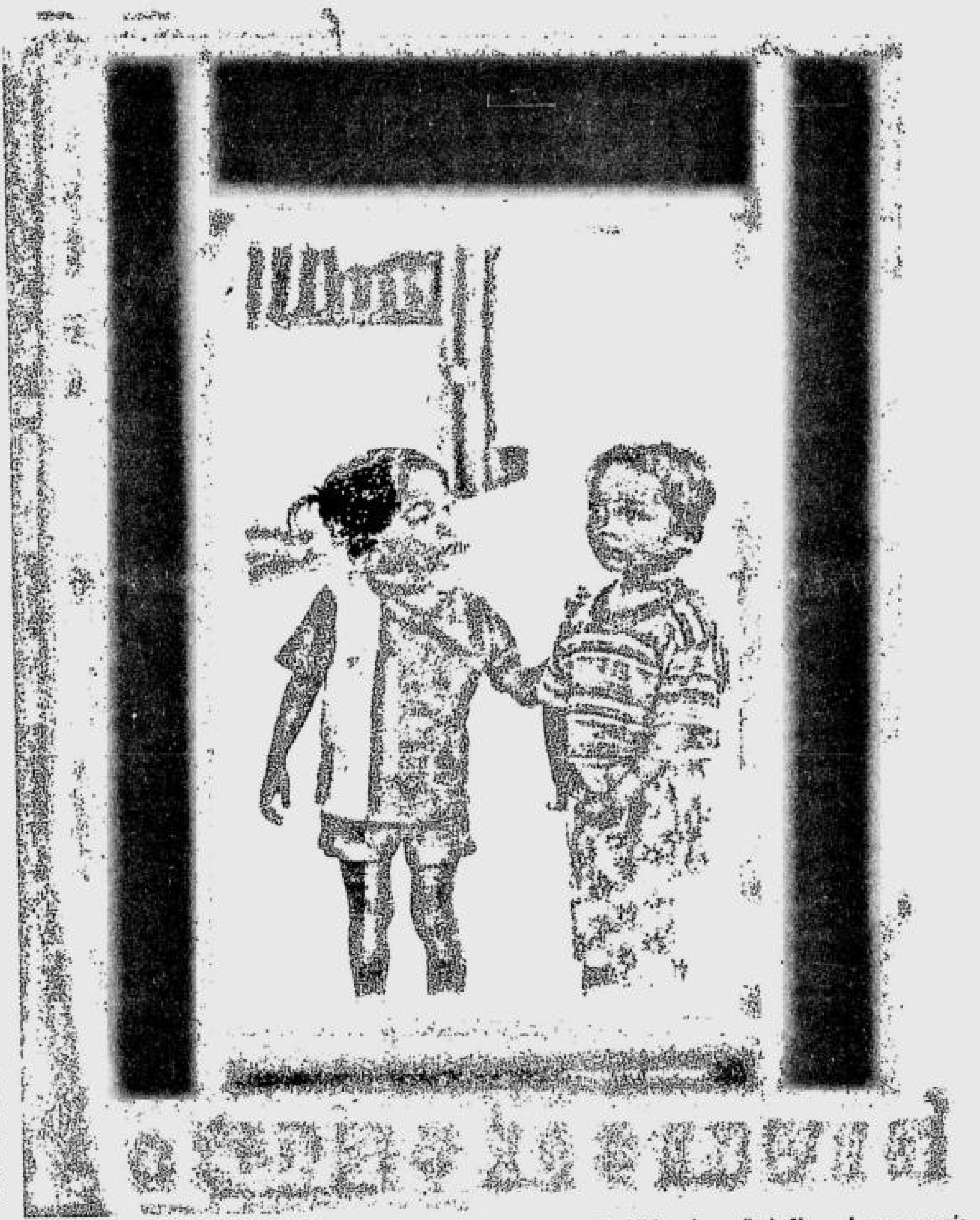
**COTABATO CITY—Twelve days into a military counteroffensive ordered by President Macapagal-Arroyo, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front yesterday declared a 10-day unilateral ceasefire starting June 2 to pave the way for the resumption of peace talks in war-torn Mindanao.**

MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu said Moro guerrillas would halt their attacks on Monday and give the military 10 days to pull out from their strongholds. The 12,000-strong rebel group also demanded the dropping of murder charges against MILF leaders accused of ordering recent bomb attacks.

Ms Macapagal, whose battle against the MILF has been bolstered by US pledges of more military aid, said the government was still ascertaining the MILF's sincerity in suspending hostilities even as she welcomed the rebel group's ceasefire declaration as "a positive development."

The President said government forces would continue their punitive strikes until the two sides could agree on her counteroffer of a permanent ceasefire leading to a peace agreement.

MILF/ A17


EDWIN BACASMAS

**A REFLECTION** of life in an evacuation center in Mindanao where 58 children have died of bronchopneumonia, ulcers, diarrhea, according to the DSWD, since the military offensives against the MILF started in February.

## Evacuation centers: From hot to deadly

**By Volt Contreras and Martin P. Marfil**

THE MEAL was "real hot" in an evacuation center in Erap Country Tuesday night, when President Macapagal-Arroyo dropped in unannounced on some 40 families displaced by tropical storm "Chedeng."

The President arrived at around 7 p.m. at the San Juan Elementary School, just as the evacuees were being served pork *sinigang*, rice and fried *galunggong*, Social Welfare Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman said yesterday.

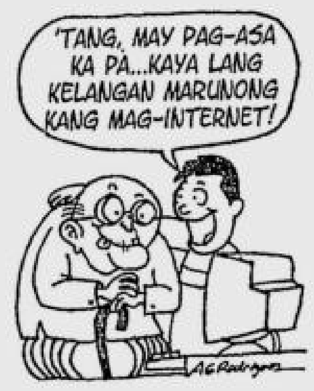
She said among the President's first actions upon arrival was to ask the evacuees if the broth was still hot.

Soliman commended the social workers under Mayor JV Ejercito, a son of ousted President Joseph Estrada, for serving the evacuees "real hot meals" instead of the "usual" canned goods and instant noodles.

But it's a cold, deadly season in Mindanao evacuation centers, where at least 80 persons have died since the government offensives against the Moro Islamic Liberation Front started in February.

Of the figure, 80 percent comprised children aged between 2 and

EVACUATION/ A15


'TANG, MAY PAG-ASA KA PA...KAYA LANG KELANGAN MARUNONG KANG MAG-INTERNET!
AG Rodriguez

## *Seniors get new lease on sex, love*

SAN FRANCISCO—What happens when a sexually frustrated 66-year-old woman advertises her plight and calls for men of all ages to step up to the plate?

If Jane Juska's experience is typical, she spends a weekend in a romantic hotel room with a man who makes her feel young again.

SENIORS/ A16

## GMA's net worth up by ₱5.2M

**By Carlito Pablo**

ONLY a year in Malacañang, and President Macapagal-Arroyo's net worth grew by P5.2 million in 2002, according to her 2002 statement of assets and liabilities filed with the Office of the Ombudsman in April.

Ms Macapagal declared in her latest SAL a net worth of P72.04 million compared to P66.7 the previous year when she was swept to power in Edsa II that ousted President Joseph Estrada.

All government officials are required by law to file an annual statement to deter them from acquiring ill-gotten wealth.

For 2002, Ms Macapagal said her total assets amounted to P75.55 million while her sole liability was a P3.5-million loan for

GMA's/ A16

## Flood victims ask: Where's 'next president'?

**By Christian V. Esguerra**
*in Manila*
**and Tonette Orejas**
*PDI Central Luzon Desk*

WHERE was the man touted by his supporters as the "next president" when flood victims needed him the most?

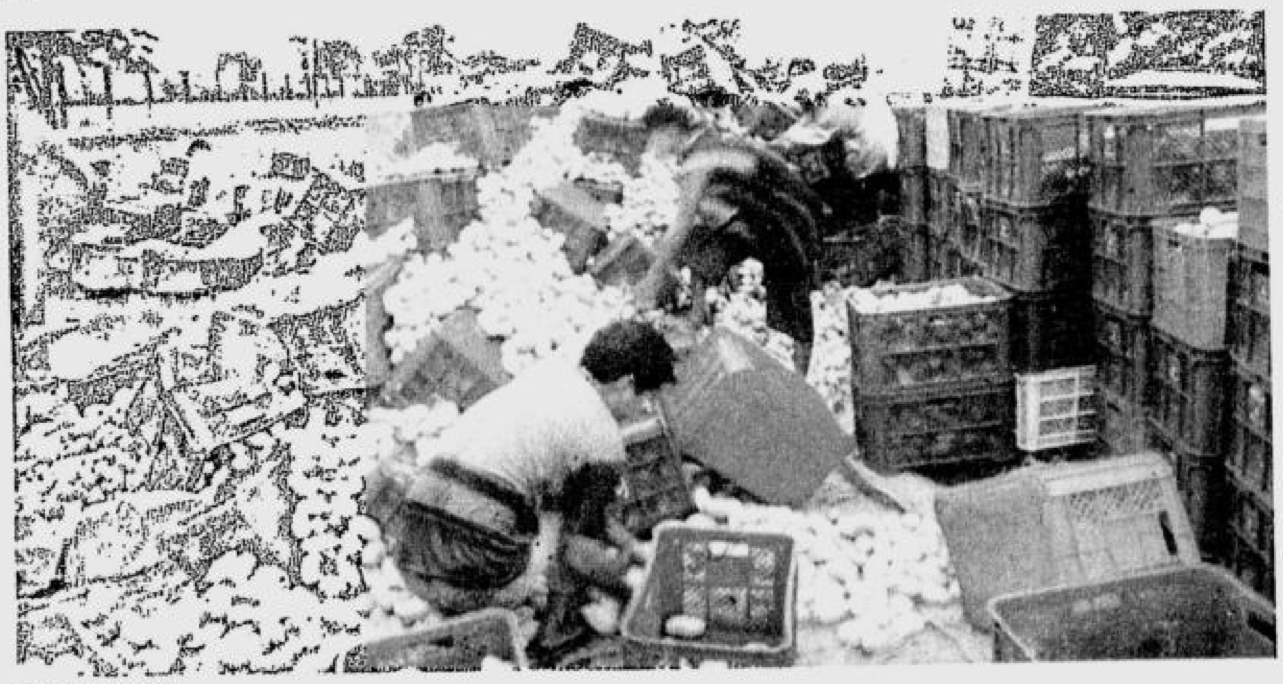
Nowhere, as hundreds of commuters and motorists were starving and stuck in heavy traffic and waist-deep floods in Pangasinan Tuesday night.

The absence of Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes and his men prompted the flood victims to ask whether he was engaged in untruthful advertising.

Contrary to the TV commercial that portrayed Reyes as a "take charge" guy in times of crisis, no member of his National Disaster Coordinating Council showed up near Urdaneta. Reyes is the NDCC chair.

The ad in fact outraged passengers of the La Union-bound Dominion bus whenever it was flashed on TV, said Manuel Meris, 51. "He's a big liar. We were all

FLOOD/ A15



**FRUIT JAM**
Crates upon crates of mangoes for delivery to Metro Manila spill out of a truck that skidded on the rain-drenched North Expressway in Bulacan, yet another handiwork whipped up by the fury of "Chedeng."

JOAN BONDOC

## 'Chedeng' exits toward Japan, leaves 18 dead

TROPICAL storm "Chedeng" (international name: Linfa) yesterday bore down on Japan's southern islands but the death toll in the Philippines continued to rise with 18 as the count at press time.

Eleven deaths were yesterday added to the seven reported Tuesday as rains lashed Luzon and the Western Visayas provinces of Iloilo, Negros Occidental, Antique and Aklan.

The Office of Civil Defense (OCD) named four of the 11 as Danilo Guinto, 21, who died of electrocution in Barangay Sta. Cruz, Maantol, Pampanga; Patrick Montano, 16, also of electrocution in Rosario, Cavite; Katherine Molina, 18, of asphyxiation in a landslide in Itogon, Benguet; and Ronald Amante, 8, of drowning in Barangay San Agustin, Malabon.

Four other fatalities, according to the OCD, were identified as Marcelina Hidalgo, 44, who was hit by lightning in Sison, Pangasinan; Isiah Podarira, 8, who drowned in Antipolo; Eleonor Panergo, 6 months old, who died of severe cold in Mandurriao, Iloilo City; and Rex Falcag, 17, who drowned in Dao, Antique.

The OCD said the last three fatalities were from the Ilocos region. They were Lorenzo Reciles who was bitten by a snake; Daphne Cabar, 13, and Jinky Cabar, 15, who both drowned.

Pagasa said yesterday that Chedeng had accelerated and shifted to the northeast direction toward Okinawa, Japan. But it will continue to induce monsoon rains over the western sections of Luzon and the Visayas.

CHEDENG/ A17

## WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The western sections of Luzon and Visayas will experience monsoon rains while the rest of Luzon and Visayas will have partly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. Mindanao will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers.
SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/05/29/03

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Metro Manila** | Monsoon Rains | **Iloilo/Bacolod** | Monsoon Rains |
| **Baguio** | Monsoon Rains | **Roxas** | Monsoon Rains |
| **Tuguegarao** | Cloudy with Rains | **Cebu** | Cloudy with Rains |
| **Laoag** | Monsoon Rains | **Tacloban** | Cloudy with Rains |
| **Clark Zone** | Monsoon Rains | **Gen. Santos** | Partly Cloudy |
| **Tagaytay** | Monsoon Rains | **Zamboanga** | Partly Cloudy |
| **Legazpi** | Cloudy with Rains | **Cagayan de Oro** | Partly Cloudy |
| **Calapan** | Monsoon Rains | **Davao** | Partly Cloudy |

# Doc probed on terror suspect

**By Christian V. Esguerra**

PHILIPPINE National Police chief Hermogenes Ebdane has ordered an investigation of the Cagayan de Oro-based doctor who allegedly put top bomb suspect Saifulla Yunos alias Muklis, in heavy bandage to help him elude arrest.

The name of Dr. Mali Te Magomnang, said to be from Amai Pakpak Medical Hospital, appeared in the certificate claiming that Yunos had been injured from a vehicular accident, thus the cast and bandage.

This certificate was presented to members of the PNP Intelligence Group when they arrested Yunos and his Egyptian companion Dia'a Algabri at Lumbia Airport in Cagayan last Sunday.

Police believe they foiled a plot to mount bombing attacks on Metro Manila with the arrest of Yunos and his Egyptian companion.

Yunos is one of the prime suspects in the Rizal day bombings in Metro Manila in 2000.

# Bali suspect claims he trained MILF rebs

**JAKARTA—An alleged Bali bomber and member of the Jemaah Islamiah terror group said yesterday he had spent six months instructing Muslim rebels in Mindanao in combat skills.**

Mubarok, alias Utomo Pamungkas, was the second Bali suspect and JI member to testify here in the treason and terrorism trial of Indonesian Muslim cleric Abu Bakar Bashir.

Their evidence shed new light on the regional connections and workings of JI. The group is accused of staging last October's Bali blasts which killed 202 people and a string of other attacks.

Mubarok and Ali Imron said they either believed or were told that Bashir leads the shadowy group, as prosecutors allege.

Mubarok said he had studied the use of weapons, explosives and tactics during "holidays" in Pakistan from 1991-94.

When he moved on to Malaysia in 1994 he met a man called Zulkarnaen—who is still being hunted for the Bali blasts—and Abdullah Sungkar. Police say Sungkar co-founded JI with Bashir.

Mubarok said he took an oath of loyalty to Sungkar which stated: "I am ready to follow my leader as long as my leader does not take me into the path of sin."

But it was not until four years later that he was told by a man called Mustofa that he had actually joined a group called Jemaah Islamiah back in 1994.

Mubarok said Mustofa took him to Mindanao in the southern Philippines, where he lived for six months teaching religion and warfare skills at a camp of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front in Cotabato.

Sungkar died in 1999 and Mubarok said two people told him that Bashir had taken over as JI chief.

Zulkarnaen had told him around 1999-2000 that "I now communicate directly with ustadz (teacher) Abu Bakar Bashir."

Mubarok said a man named Fahim had also told him "that ustadz Abdullah Sungkar after his death has been replaced by ustadz Abu Bakar Bashir."

Bashir told the court: "There's something that we want to declare as untrue, the witness' conclusion that I was an emir (leader) of Jemaah Islamiah.

"About communication with Zulkarnaen, it never existed."

Earlier Ali Imron told the court he did not know who led JI.

"My hunch is it's Abu Bakar Bashir because he was close to him (Sungkar). But I don't have evidence."

Another Bali suspect—Mukhlas—gave evidence later in the day.

In his testimony, Mukhlas, alias Ali Ghufron, said he knew Osama bin Laden well but that the al-Qaida leader had not assisted in his activities.

Asked by one of the judges if he knew Bin Laden, Mukhlas said: "I know him well."

Asked if there had been any help from Bin Laden for any of his activities, Mukhlas said: "There is not."

"Allahu Akbar!" (God is Greatest) shouted dozens of Bashir's supporters as witnesses were brought in.

Hundreds of police armed with rifles, tear gas launchers and batons were posted around the court and a bomb squad checked the premises.

Imron said he was sworn in as a JI member in Malaysia and also spent five years fighting in Afghanistan.

Bashir faces 20 years in jail if convicted of trying to topple the government through a JI terror campaign, and to set up an Islamic state.

He has not been accused of a role in the Bali blasts but Samudra and Mukhlas have been named in his indictment. *AFP*

# Sabah cops now on trial for girl's rape

KUALA LUMPUR—Two Malaysian policemen are on trial for allegedly raping a 13-year-old girl who was at the center of a diplomatic row between Malaysia and Philippines last year, officials said Wednesday.

"The trial started on Tuesday" in Kota Kinabalu in Sabah, Mohamad Yusof Zainal Abiden, head of prosecution for the Attorney General's Chambers, said.

The two policemen, Mohamed Fauzi Yahya, 34, and Ahmad Nazri Zainurddin, 33, were charged with rape on Feb. 28 and have pleaded not guilty to raping the girl at a detention center in Sabah between July 27 and Aug. 12 last year.

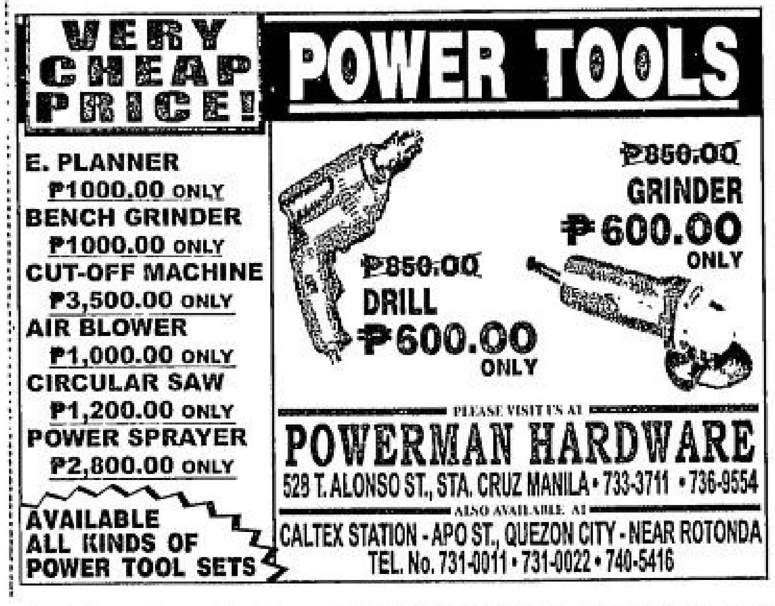
They face a maximum of 20 years in jail and whipping if convicted.

The incident sparked a diplomatic row with the Philippines, as the girl was initially thought to be a Filipino.

She was deported to the Philippines in September last year along with thousands of others in a crackdown on illegal migrants.

Her claim that she had been raped before deportation provoked outrage in the Philippines, and President Macapagal-Arroyo fired off a strongly-worded letter to Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad asking him to immediately act on the complaint.

A diplomatic protest was also lodged with Malaysia. *AFP*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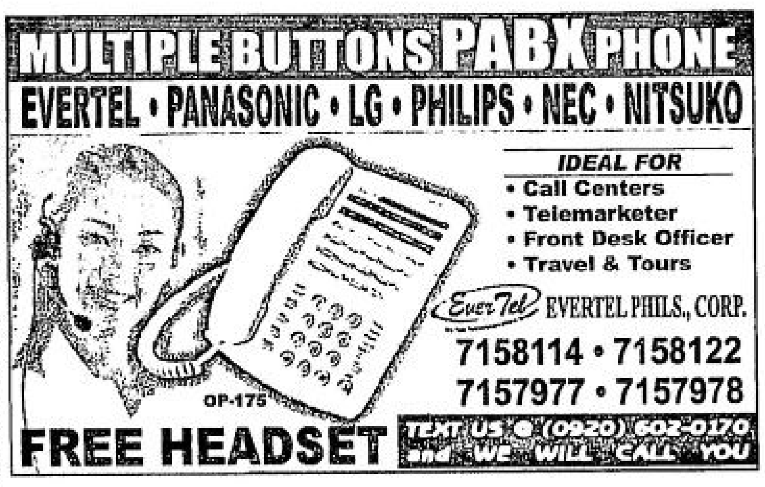
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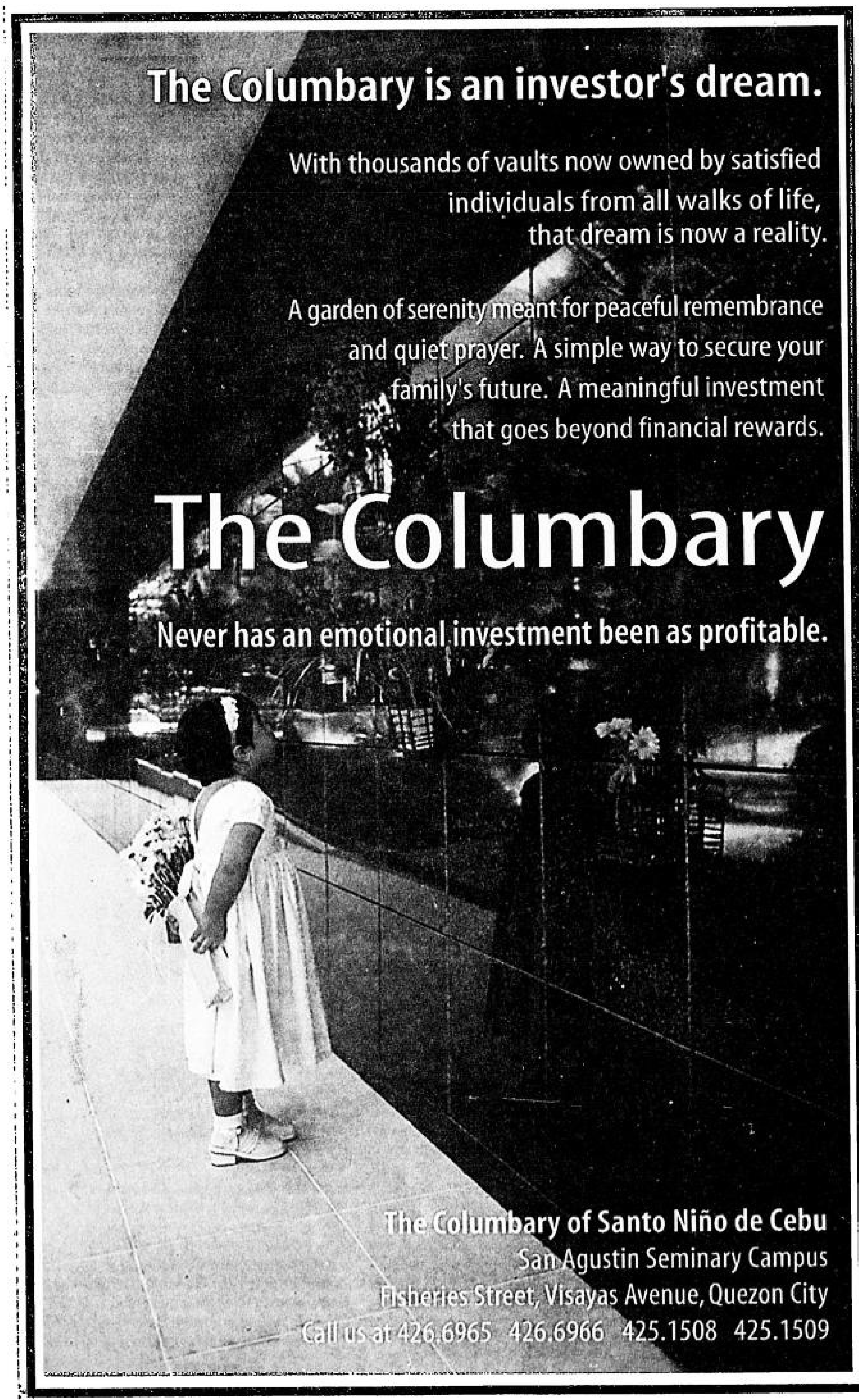
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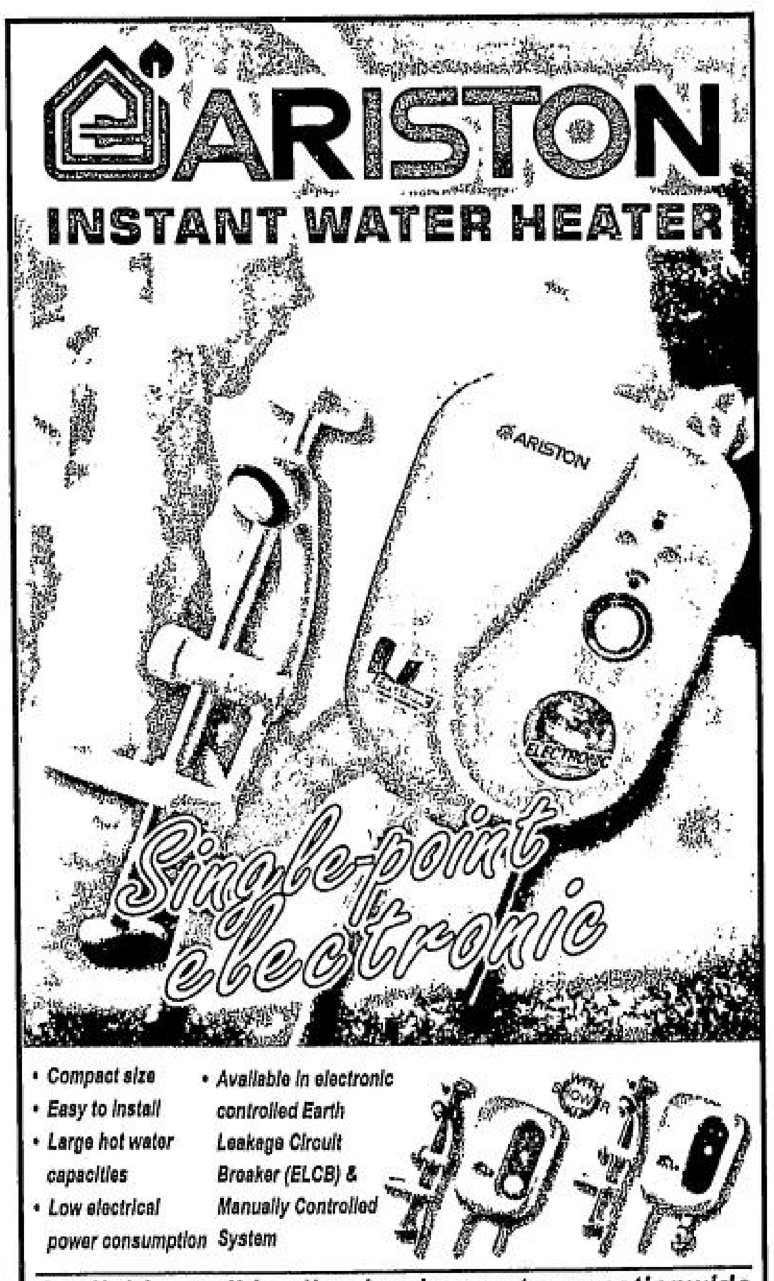
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# GMA goes from White House to Blue House

FROM the White House to the Blue House.

This appears to be the trajectory of President Macapagal-Arroyo's travels as she prepares to make a two-day state visit to South Korea, following the fresh triumph of her state visit to Washington last week.

As in her Washington visit, a state dinner awaits the President at South Korea's presidential palace, called the Blue House.

The President will pass by Japan for a working trip after Seoul, her fourth visit to that country since assuming office two years ago.

In her June 2 to 4 visit to Seoul, Ms Macapagal is expected to discuss with South Korean President Roh Moo-Hyun efforts to end the nuclear crisis between the reclusive Stalinist state of North Korea and the United States.

"The President will manifest the initiative of the Philippines to play a strategic role in maintaining peace and stability and promote peace and prosperity in Asia," Presidential Spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said.

He said one of the key points to be discussed would be "the question of North Korean armaments because this is something very close to home," adding that the Philippines was within the range of North Korean missiles.

Bunye said the President wants a "bigger core group within (the Association of Southeast Asian Nations)" to push for North Korean disarmament.

Ms Macapagal will also meet with the estimated 33,700-strong Filipino community in South Korea, many of whom are there illegally.

Bunye said the President will press for legislation granting more rights for migrant workers in South Korea.

The President will then proceed to Tokyo from June 4 to 6 to attend the 9th Nikkei International Conference on the Future of Asia.

Ms Macapagal is one of three speakers at the conference, with Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad and Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra.

She will also be meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi and is expected to press for more Japanese aid, said Bunye. *Dona Pazzibugan and AFP*

# RP's top journalists honored tonight

THE COUNTRY'S most outstanding print and broadcast journalists take the limelight today, as the Rotary Club of Manila honors the "country's press freedom fighters" in the 21st edition of the Rotary Journalism Awards.

The chair of the Senate Blue Ribbon Committee, Sen. Joker Arroyo, is the guest of honor and keynote speaker at the awards ceremonies to be held at 6 p.m. at the Centennial Hall of the Manila Hotel.

Former Senate President Jovito R. Salonga headed the board of judges for this year's Awards which has four main categories: Investigative Journalist of the Year, Opinion Writer of the Year, Broadcast Journalist of the Year and Newspaper of the Year.

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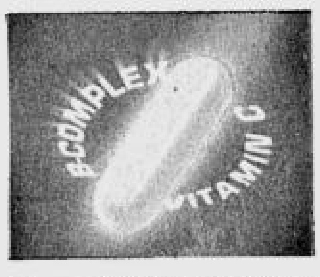
* from an article by M.P. Macapinlac, M.D., Ph.D.



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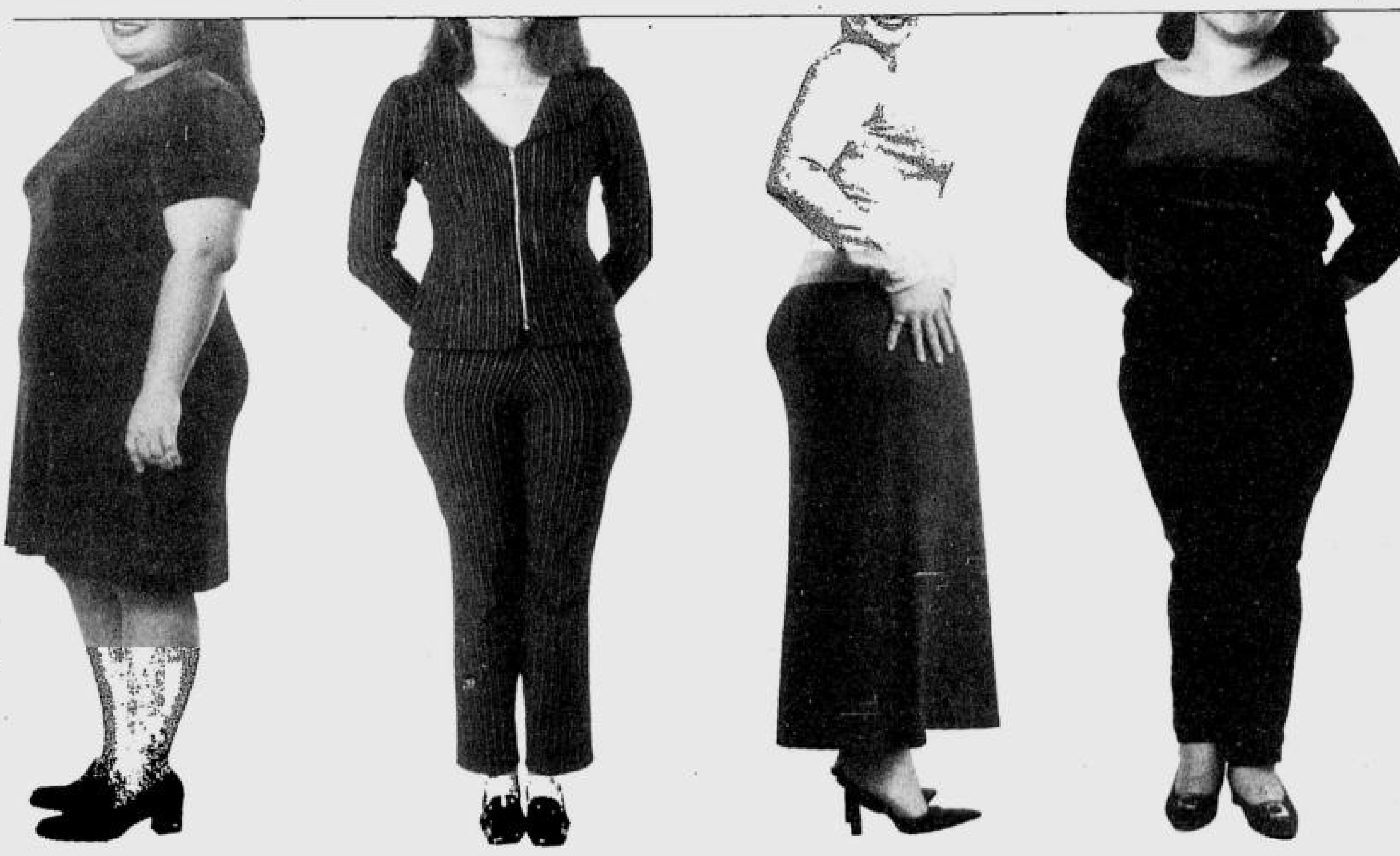

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# Ball in your court, Joker tells opposition

**By Michael Lim Ubac**

THE BALL is now in the minority's court, so declared Sen. Joker P. Arroyo following his decision on Monday to open an investigation into the extortion allegation involving a Malacañang-connected lawyer.

In an interview, Arroyo said the minority pushing for the investigation had the "burden of proof" of providing the blue ribbon committee with evidence.

To start with, he said opposition Sen. Edgardo Angara had agreed last Monday that the minority must provide the committee with witnesses.

"We will wait for the names of the resource persons (or witnesses)," said Arroyo.

This would include the the American and German lawyers of Fraport, the German partners of Piatco in the Naia Terminal 3 project, who were allegedly asked by a Palace lawyer to cough up P3 billion to fix Piatco's legal problems.

Arroyo reiterated he was not going to turn the probe into a "fishing expedition," explaining that his decision to finally open an inquiry did not change his stand on the admissibility of the purported taped conversation between the Fraport lawyers and the Palace lawyer.

"If it's not admissible, then it's not admissible, at no point that it can be used," said Arroyo, who vowed to "discuss the [allegation] till kingdom come," while insisting that he needed evidence independent of the taped conversation.

Arroyo stressed that the inquiry would work within the "bounds of the law," not only to follow the Anti-Wiretapping Law "but to preserve the Constitution and the Bill of Rights."

He pointed out that even during the darkest years of Martial Law, wiretaps were never used by the military as evidence in any proceedings.

"The military knew exactly what was happening (in the opposition camp) because they bugged all the telephones, but it did not dare to introduce illegal wiretaps to pin down the (opposition)," said Arroyo, who was one of the defense lawyers of the martyred opposition leader Ninoy Aquino when the latter was indicted by the Marcos regime for subversion and rebellion.

"We are forgetting the Bill of Rights of the Constitution which is a limitation of the powers of the government," he said.

Arroyo pointed out that he could not accept wiretaps as the privacy of communication "can't be curtailed."

"In the hierarchy of rights enumerated by the Bill of Rights, the privacy of communication comes third right after the right to due process and the right against unnecessary searches and seizures," said Arroyo. "It even comes ahead of the freedom of speech."

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Responding to numerous complaints of air & noise pollution in the Philippine skies, Sen. Robert S. Jaworski, Chairman-Committee on Environment & Natural Resources of the Philippine Senate, made a surprise visit at the IAU Aviation Center. Shown here being assisted by IAU President, Dr. Jovenal B. Toring (right), Sen. Jaworski discusses with aerospace engineering students & airline pilots the subject of minimizing noise pollution from various aircraft that take off and land at Mactan Cebu International Airport.

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## Climaco hires law firm

PRESIDENTIAL consultant Gloria Tan Climaco has engaged the law firm of human rights lawyers Arno Sanidad and Theodore Te in the wake of the Senate blue ribbon committee's opening a probe into allegations of extortion involving Palace aides in the Naia Terminal 3 project.

Sanidad , senior partner in the Sanidad, Abaya, Te, Viterbo, Enriquez & Tan law firm, confirmed they had been retained by Climaco who, as the then presidential adviser for strategic projects, reviewed contracts awarded to the Philippine International Air Terminals Co. for the construction of Terminal 3.

## 5th Pinoy in cruise ship fire dies

MIAMI—The death toll from a cruise ship explosion rose to five with the death of a Filipino assistant reefer engineer from burns at a hospital here.

He was identified by a Manila-based placement agency as Mari John Bautista, whose wife was scheduled to travel to Florida to visit him.

Rizalyn Bautista went to the CF Sharp office in Manila to finally get her passport so she could fly to Florida to visit her husband.

But she was greeted with the news of her husband's death from third degree burns.

This developed as another Filipino crew member injured in the blast filed a $1 billion lawsuit against the ship's owner, Norwegian Cruise Line.

All of the dead and injured were Filipino crew members on the Norway, where a boiler exploded Sunday.

Bautista died Tuesday at Jackson Memorial Hospital, where 12 other crew members were still being treated, said spokesperson Maria Rosa Gonzalez.

The negligence lawsuit was brought by Abdi Comadia, 44, who was listed in good condition at the hospital. Comadia is seeking $1 billion in punitive damages and $1 million in compensatory damages for his pain and suffering, according to his lawyer, Bill Huggett.

Comadia, a cook, said he was in the shower one floor above the room where the boiler exploded. The steam released during the blast burned both arms, both legs and his face. He said he was partially protected by a towel wrapped around his waist and ran out of the shower, shouting for help.

Susan Robison, a spokesperson for Miami-based Norwegian Cruise Line, did not return several messages. *AP with a report from Blanche Rivera*

Republic of the Philippines
**COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS**
Manila

**IN THE MATTER OF APPLYING SECTION 29 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6646 AND SECTION 28 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8436 IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9189, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE OVERSEAS ABSENTEE VOTING ACT OF 2003"**

PRESENT:

| | |
|---|---|
| ABALOS, Benjamin S., | Chairman |
| TANCANGCO, Luzviminda G., | Commissioner |
| JAVIER, Rufino S.B., | Commissioner |
| LANTION, Ralph C., | Commissioner |
| SADAIN, Mehol K., | Commissioner |
| BORRA, Resurreccion Z., | Commissioner |
| TUASON, Jr., Florentino A., | Commissioner |

Promulgated: 26 May 2003

### RESOLUTION NO. 6177

**WHEREAS**, Congress passed Republic Act No. 9189, otherwise known as the "Overseas Absentee Voting Act of 2003", granting upon qualified Filipinos abroad the right to participate in the democratic political exercises of the country;

**WHEREAS**, the Commission on Elections (Commission) has not fully undertaken the basic preparations for pre-election activities such as the registration of overseas absentee voters because the requisite funding for said activities has not yet been released;

**WHEREAS**, Section 6 of the said Act specified that for purposes of the May 2004 elections, the Commission has to conduct the registration of millions of overseas absentee voters until 04 August 2003;

**WHEREAS**, with all the technical and operational preparations that need to be undertaken and put in place, the Commission is practically left with approximately two (2) months within which to conduct the registration worldwide;

**WHEREAS**, the Commission needs additional time within which to conduct the registration to ensure the widest and meaningful participation of qualified overseas Filipinos in the overseas absentee voting process;

**WHEREAS**, Section 26 of the same Act provides that the pertinent provisions of the Omnibus Election Code, as amended, and other election laws, which are not in conflict with its provisions shall remain in full force and have suppletory effect;

**WHEREAS**, Section 29 of Republic Act No. 6646 provides that:

> "Sec. 29. *Designation of Other Dates for Certain Pre-election Acts.- If it should no longer be reasonably possible to observe the periods and dates prescribed by law for certain pre-election acts, the Commission shall fix other periods and dates in order to ensure accomplishment of the activities so voters shall not be deprived of their right of suffrage."*

**WHEREAS**, Section 28 of Republic Act No. 8436 provides that:

> "*Sec. 28. Designation of Other Dates for Certain Pre-election Acts. - If it shall no longer be reasonably possible to observe the periods and dates prescribed by law for certain pre-election acts, the Commission shall fix other periods and dates in order to ensure accomplishment of the activities so voters shall not be deprived of their right of suffrage."*

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the Commission, pursuant to the authority vested in it by the Constitution, Republic Act No. 9189,and other election laws, **RESOLVED** as it hereby **RESOLVES**, to apply the provisions of Section 29 of Republic Act No. 6646 and Section 28 of Republic Act No. 8436 in the implementation of Republic Act No. 9189, and to incorporate the same in COMELEC Resolution No. 6117 promulgated on 14 May 2003, otherwise known as "The Rules and Regulations Implementing the Overseas Absentee Voting Act of 2003", so as not to deprive overseas absentee voters of their right of suffrage.

This resolution shall take effect immediately after publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines.

The Education and Information Department of the Commission shall cause the publication and widest dissemination of this Resolution and furnish copies hereof to the Department of Foreign Affairs, Department of Labor and Employment, Department of Transportation and Communication, Philippine Postal Corporation, Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, Overseas Workers Welfare Administration, Commission on Filipinos Overseas, and Maritime Industry Authority.

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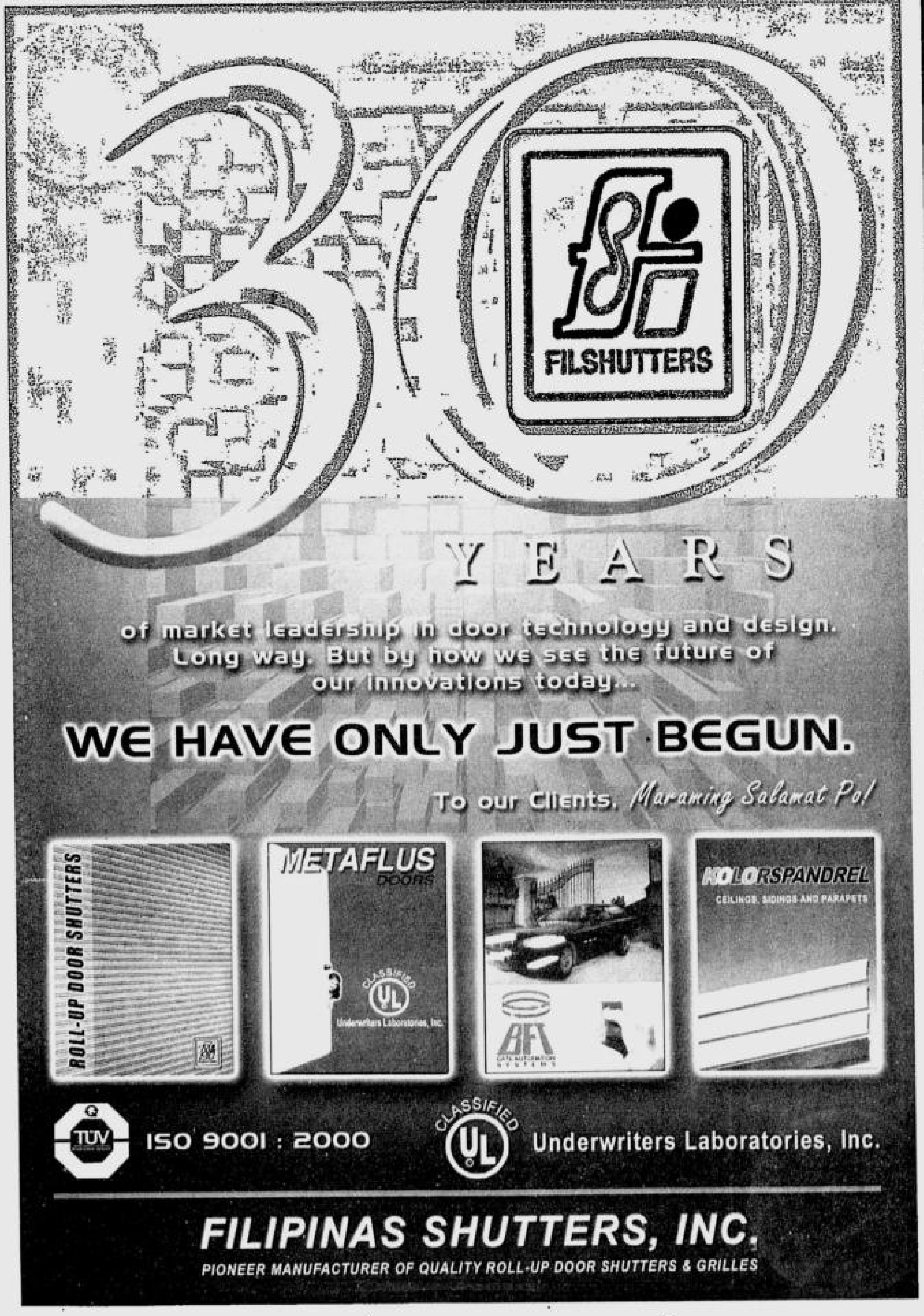

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# Be patient, Sotto asks LDP partymates

OPPOSITION Sen. Vicente Sotto III yesterday appealed to disgruntled Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino party members to be patient as there was still time for the party to prepare for the 2004 national elections.

Sotto has offered to help mend a threatened rift within the party after a group of LDP House members led by Minority Leader Carlos Padilla expressed frustration over party president Sen. Edgardo Angara's alleged unwillingness to meet with them to discuss party issues, particularly the choice of who should lead the party slate in 2004.

Angara has declared his preference for businessman Eduardo Cojuangco as the opposition's standard bearer while an opposition faction calling itself the "united opposition" announced last month their choice of controversial Sen. Panfilo Lacson.

Padilla, who supports Lacson, said the other day that Angara had thrice snubbed the LDP congressmen pressing for a meeting with him, the latest of which was last night.

Padilla was miffed when Angara reportedly sent word that he would be able to meet with the group only in June.

Asked whether this development would widen the rift between Angara and the congressmen, Sotto explained that what was happening was that some LDP members were just impatient over the party's preparations for 2004.

"Apparently, there are some in the local level who are rushing to prepare and you cannot blame them for that," he told reporters.

Sotto said he was willing to mediate and talk to the House LDPs who have been vocal in their criticism of Angara's preference for Cojuangco.

"I will appeal to them that they should not worsen the situation if such situation exists," Sotto said.

He said the party was facing far more serious problems which should be enough reason for the party to stay united.

"I'm appealing to them, to the presidentiables and vice presidentiables, let's relax, let's fix this, there is still time," Sotto said.

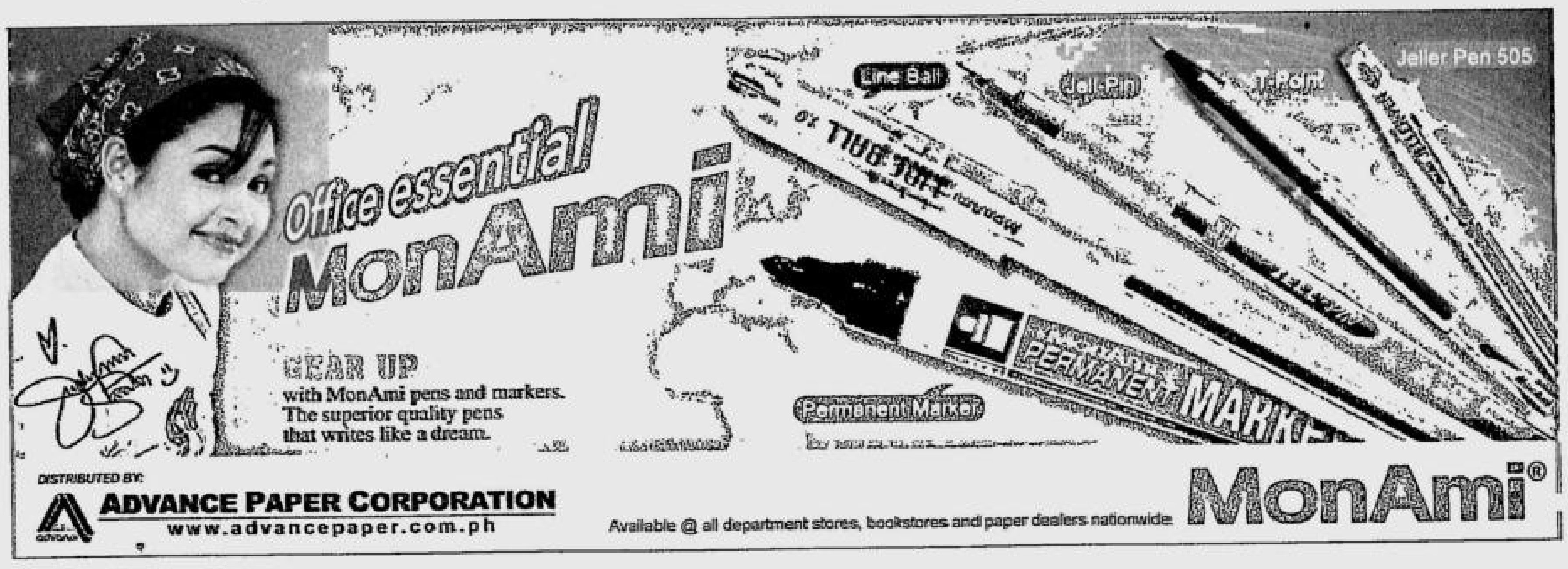
If a politician wants to start his election campaign this early, nothing beats a good track record in performance and public service, he said without referring to anyone in particular.

Sotto also expressed the belief that by the time Congress reopens in July, the party would likely be "95 percent clear" on the issue of whom it would support in 2004.

"It's not that possible that the party would be solid from the start," Sotto said.

Sotto said the party was looking at Lacson, Fernando Poe Jr., Cojuangco,. Aquilino Pimentel Jr., Raul Roco and even Angara as possible presidential candidates.

As for the vice presidential race, he said the presidential candidate should be the one to choose his running mate. *Christine Avendaño*



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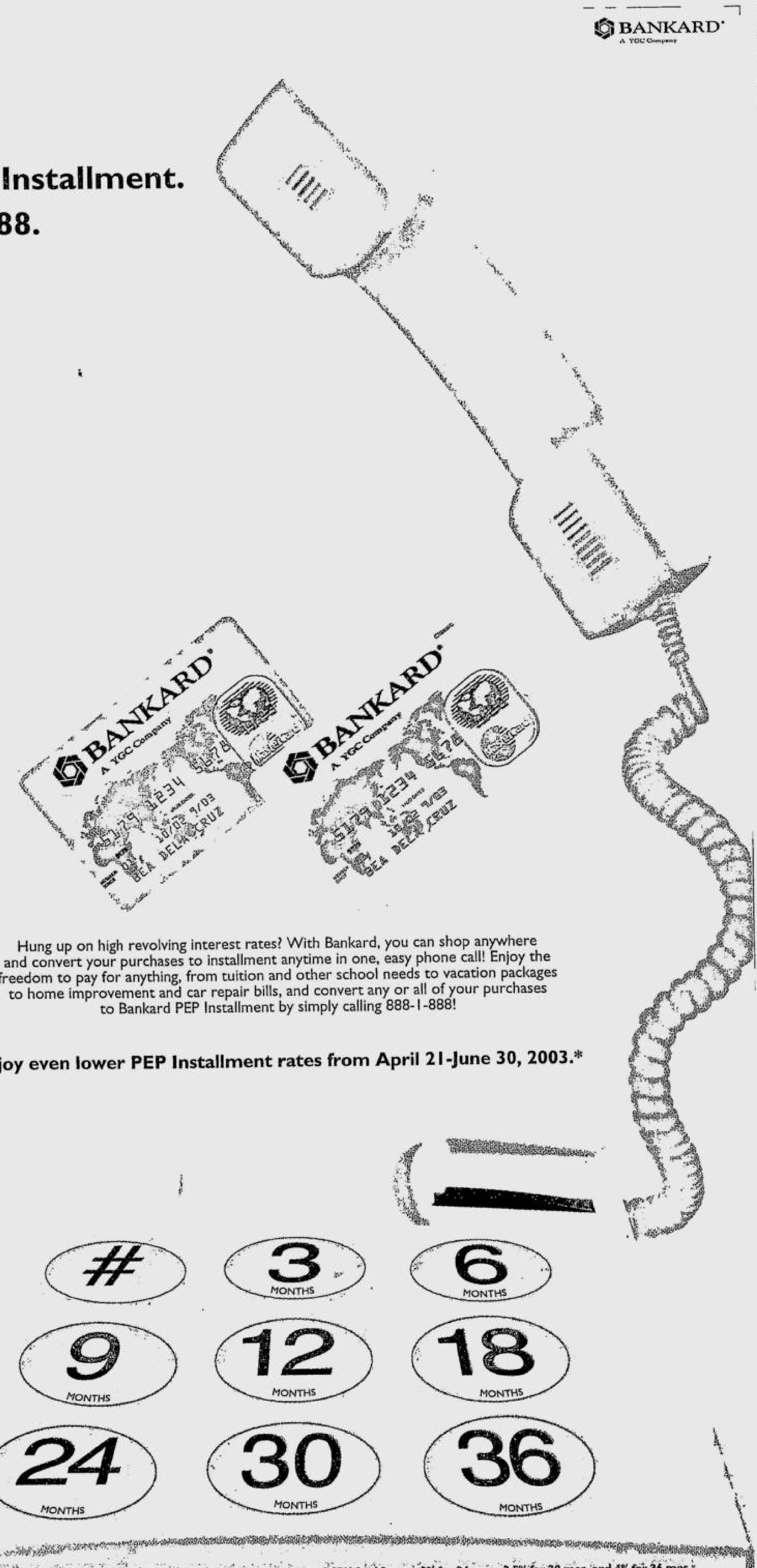

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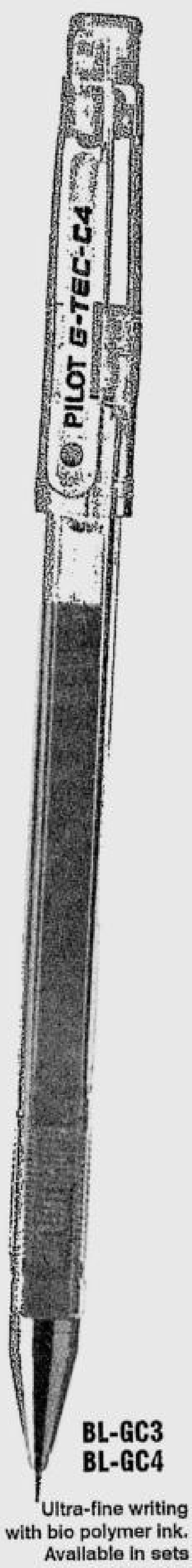

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INQUIRER

*Vol. 18 No. 170*
*ISSN 0116-2642*

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

THURSDAY, MAY 29, 2003

Email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph website: http://www.inq7.net

THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at
•Chino Roces Ave corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
•P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
•Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
•Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 •Advertising 897-4807
•Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 / 528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax: 528-02-34.

# OPINION

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## Name-calling

**EDITORIAL**

THE JUDICIAL system and especially the Supreme Court have come under heavy fire during the past couple of years over a number of landmark decisions promulgated in the midst of political crises or concerning corruption-tainted public transactions.

The attacks on the Court have been couched in scurrilous and vicious language that degrades calm debate and dignity in the discussion of judicial issues. And they have been made either by non-lawyers with axes to grind, or second-rate lawyers who think their judgment is superior to the collective wisdom of the justices of the Court, or good lawyers defending the political clients.

If there is a one sure sign that the quality of judicial debate has been debased, it is that name-calling has pushed out reason. One recent example was the accusation lashing at "terrorists in robes" and taking issue with the Court's decision holding null and void the onerous and one-sided contracts with Piatco for the construction and operation of the Naia Terminal 3. When anyone resorts to name-calling, this is a sure sign that he has lost the debate because he is not arguing on the basis of issues and reason.

The word "terrorist" hardly applies to judges. It is inappropriate and inaccurate. No matter how much one disagrees with a court's decision, especially one handed down by the Supreme Court, still one must concede that it was arrived at after careful deliberation and after hearing the litigants. Court decisions are not sneak attacks sprung by surprise. Those who have the most superficial acquaintance with court etiquette need not be told that court exchanges are expressed with dignity and decorum, employing civilized language.

Calling the judges "terrorists in robes" is a personal attack that does not address issues, and this kind of attack reflects on the poor background of its source. The courts do not and need not reply to personal attacks because that would dignify name-calling. They can stand on the merits of their decisions.

The source of this attack tries to occupy the high moral and intellectual ground, even though his credentials for doing so are not known. It is well that the Piatco case was cited as an example of judicial "terrorism." The self-appointed court critic said, "According to experts, the court decision is grossly flawed, inconsistent and it violates the Constitution and the BOT law."

These issues were squarely addressed by the Court in a 10-3 decision, with one justice abstaining. The decision should be read more carefully to avoid repetitious arguments. Are these "experts" more authoritative than the majority of the justices?

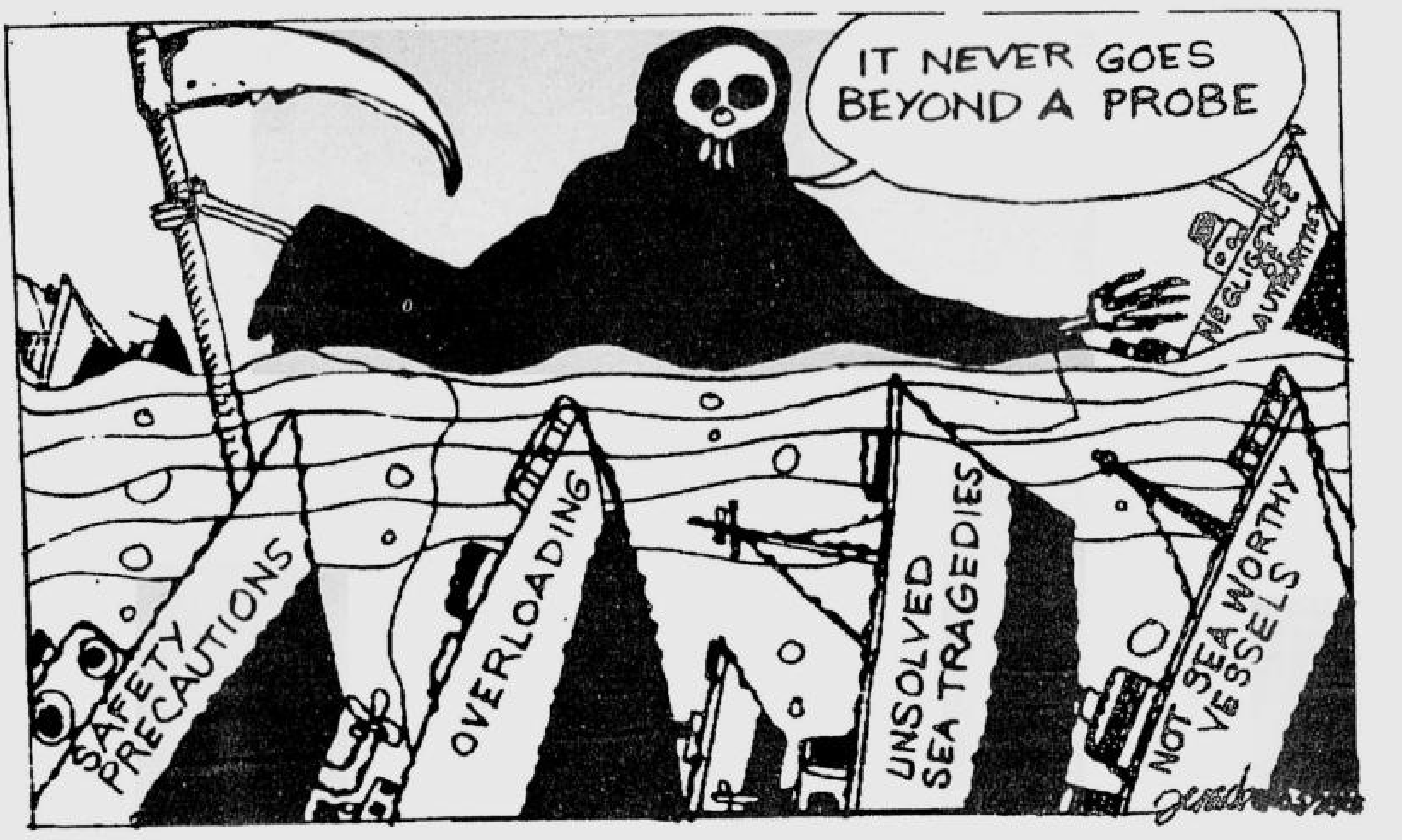
The Supreme Court is the highest court in the land and if one wants to argue that its decisions are wrong, in appealing for reconsideration, then that party is expected to put forward arguments more cerebral than name-calling. We are safer with the courts than with self-serving critics promoting lost causes.

It should be noted that those who have criticized the decision on Piatco, including its lawyers, have not been above fudging the truth. One of their arguments is that the government did not spend anything on the project that is estimated to have cost $500 million. Piatco is seeking compensation for this.

While this lie that the government has not spent a single centavo on the project has been repeated countless times, the truth remains that in the course of four amendments to the 1997 Concession Agreement, the government was forced to assume penalties and financial obligations written into the amendments. The amendments were riddled with traps so that every step of the way, the government could not have avoided paying penalties.

The nullification of the Piatco contracts is cited as an example of inconsistency in court decisions affecting economic issues. Policy consistency—meaning the sanctity of contracts or privatization—is not an issue in the Piatco case. It is a false issue that has been raised to deflect focus from the real issue, which is nullifying the contracts to stop a gigantic and squalid rip-off of the general public.

Among all the state institutions, it is the Supreme Court that is doing the most in curbing judicial corruption and stopping the plunder of the national treasury. At times it has also curbed the prodigious appetite for money of some publicists.



## Imelda is to blame for Malabon floods

**AS I SEE IT**

*Neal H. Cruz*

AS SURELY as the sun rises in the east, my hometown of Malabon is flooded as soon as the first heavy rains fall. The residents are now used to it, though that doesn't mean they're not unhappy or irritated. It just means they have learned to cope with the floods that have visited them for decades.

But through the years, the floods have grown increasingly higher, more often, and the water dirtier. When I was a boy growing up in Malabon, the floods were welcome because it was a chance to romp in the water. The water then was clean and clear; the two rivers running through the city and their tributaries were not as polluted as they are now.

During neap tides, even when there was no rain, the rivers overflowed their banks and we would watch and wait as the advancing water crept into the street and yards before plunging in.

There were many fishponds in Malabon and when the tide went out, even when there was heavy rain, the water drained into the ponds. But during the rainy season, even the ponds filled up and the water invaded the yards and even the homes.

This was not such a bad time then. Our ancestral compound was surrounded by fishponds, with kakawati trees leaning over them and huge fruit trees growing in the yard. When the kakawatis unfurled their pink blossoms, the place was as beautiful as Japanese ponds with cherry blossoms hanging over them. We would climb the trees and jump into our private swimming pool, sometimes joined by our ducks and dogs.

That's not all. Spiny fish, locally called *liwalo* or *martiniko*, climbed the banks of the pond, attracted by water flowing down from the yard like they were going up stream, and darted about in the shallow waters of the yard. We would catch them. Roasted over hot coals, they made delicious and aromatic *ulam* for lunch. Those we couldn't cook at once (sometimes there are so many) we would put inside *tapayans* filled to the brim with water.

Our ancestral house had a basement. During floods, the water went into this basement. And along with it were assorted fish from the pond. We could hear them splashing in the water below.

When the flood receded they would be left there. We would catch them a few at a time for lunch and dinner and leave the rest for future needs. We would even feed them with scraps and the bangus, which is vegetarian, with algae from the pond. Sometimes they would last until the next flood.

During heavy flooding, some of the fishpond dikes would be breached and the fish would escape into the roads and yards. Then it would be like a fiesta with people, young and old, out in the streets and yards chasing the fish with all sorts of implements: nets, traps, spears, basket basins and *batyas*, and clubs. Some of the fish would escape into the river and here the experienced fishermen would catch them with nets. That was when fish would be sold very cheap to passersby.

It took days before the fishpond workers could repair the breached dikes; they had to wait for the water to subside. By that time, plenty of fish had already escaped, and that meant a big loss to the fishpond owners. That is why many fishpond owners have their milkfish harvested before the rainy season, or when a storm is approaching, even when they're not yet big enough, to catch and sell them before they escape and get lost.

Watching a river in flood inspires awe even among those who are used to it. There is the water roaring along, almost to the top of the riverbanks. The water is murky brown, carrying tons of sediment. All sorts of debris float with the current: tree branches, leaves, cans, lumber from wrecked houses, cooking pots, sometimes drowned animals.

We would watch the Catmon River roaring from the wooden bridge across it, and it was very tempting to dive in and play in the water. But with the current so swift, it was very dangerous even for strong swimmers. That is how strong swimmers drown: they think they can swim across a flooded river that they have crossed many times and are swept away by the strong current.

Through the years, because of the negligence of a succession of town officials, the rivers became more polluted by the factories and squatters lining their banks. The fishponds being fed by the rivers died one by one. The owners filled them up with dirt and sold them as residential lots. Nobody thought of putting drainage systems, however. The rain water had no more ponds to flow into and so stayed in the streets and yards.

One of the most guilty for the regular flooding in Malabon is Imelda Marcos. She had the Dagat-dagatan lagoon in Barrio Longos reclaimed and turned into a housing project. As its name implies ("like a sea"), it was a big lagoon that served as a catchment for the floodwaters of Malabon, Caloocan and Navotas. It was being used by the Bureau of Fisheries as an experimental station to breed milkfish.

Imelda had this stupid idea of filling it up with dirt and turning it into the Dagat-dagatan housing project. So the floodwaters had no more lagoon to go to. Besides, the rivers had grown shallower because people were throwing garbage into them, and they could hold less water. The excess water went into the homes and streets of Malabon.

The solution of officials was not to dredge the river or stop people from making them their garbage dumps but raising the level of the streets. For a while, the vehicles stayed dry, but the water went into the yards and homes of residents so they raised the levels of their yards and homes and the water went back to the streets. The streets were raised again and the whole cycle was repeated several times. When will it stop?

## Images

**THERE'S THE RUB**

*Conrado de Quiros*

I KNOW I've told the story before, but each time I see the teary-eyed survivors of "sea mishaps," as they are benignly called, I remember the trip I made to Cebu more than 25 years ago on a sea vessel.

"Sea vessel" and "sea worthiness" are concepts that are alien to the reality. The boat docked at the pier in the Manila harbor was a creaking monstrosity. I remember that the first thing I wondered was how it could fit in the crush of arms and legs that pushed and shoved and jostled at the pier. The sight of the crowd waiting for the plank to be lowered was not unlike a Picasso painting, a jumbled mass of elongated body parts jutting every which way.

The boat did fit in everyone. It started taking in passengers at around 6 p.m. and was supposed to depart at 9 p.m. It departed instead at dawn. It was immediately obvious that there were more passengers than were supposed to be there. As soon as the boat groaned its way out to sea, people started laying out their mats on the deck. It was a summer day, the waters were calm, and a warm breeze roistered vigorously on the deck.

There was a disco below with a live band playing. The night before the boat left harbor, people were already drinking. The next night (the trip took nearly 40 hours, not including the waiting time) it was the same thing. I do not know if the staff and crew partook of the revelry. I half-suspected they did, on the sly. Or they took their libations in their quarters. But such was the scale of drinking that six hours before the boat reached Cebu, the bar ran out of beer and *bahalina* (many of those who took the boat were bound for Leyte; they meant to take a ferry to Ormoc), sending the menfolk in particular in no small state of agitation.

But what took the breath out of me during that trip were the sleeping quarters. Again, "sleeping quarters" is a concept that clashes with the reality. What there was by way of it were wooden slabs strung together one after the other reaching up to the ceiling. It wasn't a very tall ceiling. There were about five or six bunks layered up or down on nearly every space on the room. The aisles were extremely narrow spaces you could barely squeeze through. To get to your cot, you had to navigate through those narrow spaces, over rubber shoes and slippers and boxes or crates and huge cans of La Perla Biscuits. And then you climbed to your cot. Mine was the fourth or fifth, I think.

The smell was something else, as one can imagine in that cramped and fetid room. But the truly unpleasant sensation was the feeling of lying in a tomb. There was only little more than enough space for one to breathe, as in the heaving in and out of the chest. It gave whole new dimensions to the meaning of floating coffins. Not least of them the very literal one: You were in a coffin and you were bobbing up and down in the void. Despite my heroic efforts to keep it at bay, the terrifying thought came up again and again: What if something happened to the boat? The prospect of anybody getting out of that room alive was dim. No one could have extricated himself or herself from there. There weren't just men and women there, there were children, too. Lots of children.

But I consoled myself with the thought that it was summer. Nothing could happen on a balmy summer night, short of God himself sending a thunderbolt to plunge my floating coffin to the deep. And, well, "sea mishaps" happened to other people, not me.

Well, it was summer when San Nicolas rammed into Super Ferry 12, though it wasn't exactly a balmy day. It was a rainy one, the first of several rainy ones that would proclaim an abrupt halt to sunny days. And the unthinkable happened to the passengers of San Nicolas.

Each time a "sea mishap" happens (as monumental a euphemism as ever stalked this earth) my mind, unbidden, replays the scene I saw on the boat to Cebu. I do not know if maritime transport has improved by leaps and bounds over the last 25 years. I have taken passage a couple of times in the fast boats that ply the Visayas, but I imagine those things are largely patronized by the middle class. The poor, who are the vast majority that flock to the docks of Manila and elsewhere, many of them maids who go home to their provinces during summer, not necessarily to find a spouse, have to make do with the cheaper fare. Maybe things have changed, but I suspect not that much.

The tragedies that have happened over the last 10 years must suggest so. I'm not always sure if the problem is equipment or "pilot error," as human foul-ups are felicitously called. Maybe both, the "pilot error" including cases of horrible vision due not to bad weather but to bathtub gin.

But each time disaster strikes, my mind conjures the image of men, women and children screaming in the dark, tripping over rubber shoes and slippers and boxes or crates and huge cans of La Perla Biscuits, trying desperately to get to the door as the waters come bursting in. And none of them making it. It is a horrible image, and one that you won't find in news reports that show only rescue operations and a fuming president. And the even more horrible thought is, you could have been one of them.

I will not go into what needs to be done to make sea transportation safe. That's been said so many times. Some things we can do something about, some others not—as you'll know if you see the horde in the South Harbor. There are just more people than boats, most of them willing to repose their trust in God, or the throw of the dice, whichever is luckier. I will just say a silent prayer, such as I still know how to pray, for those who went away in the cold embrace of the sea.

And clutch my loved ones a little tighter.

* * *

*Comments to dequiros@info.com.ph*

# Let's invest in scholarships for poor Muslim youths

## POLITICAL TIDBITS

*Belinda Olivares-Cunanan*

THE TORRENTIAL rains are convincing reminders that summer is gone. However, it was easy to see that the Macapagal administration's holiday economics was a huge success this summer. Vastly aided, of course, by the fear of SARS and the war in Iraq, which dampened the affluent Filipinos' mania for travel abroad. Filipinos were all over the country this summer, finally discovering, it seems, the beauty of the Philippines that they kept hearing from foreign tourists. In Puerto Galera a couple of weeks back, I noted that vendors were happy to do brisk business with fellow Pinoys. I was in Banaue recently and an old tribesman, who earns money posing with tourists in his native costume, said there are now more Filipinos than foreigners in Banaue.

* * *

**At the recent signing of the "social contract" for Charter change at Club Filipino, I met three-term Calapan City Mayor Arnan Panaligan who happily related how tourists had flocked in droves to his city last summer. *Putok kami noong* Holy Week, he said, attributing it to the newly inaugurated "Strong Republic Nautical Highway." Popularly known as the "Roll-on, Roll-Off," it links up Calapan in Mindoro with Batangas City's port as well as the Visayas and popular destinations such as Boracay, through Roxas, at Mindoro's tip. The mayor said the RoRo has ended Calapan's isolation and opened up its fruit and vegetable produce not only to Metro Manila and Luzon but also to the Visayan market. He said that with the RoRo, Calapan's cooperatives can now drive their jeeps and vans straight to Divisoria, minimizing travel time, cost of handling and damage to goods—a big boon to the farmers.**

* * *

Some readers want to try driving to Boracay from Batangas and have inquired how to go about it. This is done by loading their vehicles on the RoRo at the Batangas Port, bound for Calapan or Puerto Galera, a trip of two hours, and then driving another two and a half hours to Roxas, where they can catch another RoRo to Caticlan, Aklan, the town nearest Boracay, which is a three and a half hours by boat. One can leave Batangas Port by 8 a.m. and get to Caticlan by 6 p.m., including waiting time. The RoRos have fixed daily schedules and it's best to inquire from Montenegro Shipping Lines at the Batangas Port, Tel. Nos. 043-723-7598, 043-723-8294 or 043-722-1873.

* * *

**Quite a substantial fund commitment seems to have been made by the US government during the state visit of President Macapagal-Arroyo. In security-related assistance alone, the figure of $356 million is being quoted, while Palace officials say that the "deliverables" could run up to $4.5 billion. A lot of it will go to developing Muslim Mindanao. The question is, how can these many millions in aid trickle down to the people who need it most, especially on the big island?**

**For instance, $20 million is said to have been allocated for the rehabilitation of MNLF returnees, and an equal amount to assist in the peace process with the MILF. But who will handle the funds? How can one ensure that this would be spent for the upliftment of ordinary Muslims?**

**It is no secret that Muslim officials are not the most scrupulous when it comes to handling public funds. Former ARMM Gov. Nur Misuari readily comes to mind. Billions of pesos were poured into the ARMM during his time but there's very little to show for it.**

**It's no secret, too, that a number of local officials from various provinces, including Muslim mayors of obscure towns, have mansions in Zamboanga City, which they could not have built on their salaries. This is not to say that Christian local officials are any better, but right now the concentration is on Muslim Mindanao. How to prevent the US funds from lining officials' pockets is the challenge now.**

* * *

In his letter to US National Security Adviser Condoleeza Rice, wherein he sought to convince her and President Bush about the need for a joint sponsorship of an "Interreligious Council" in the UN and a "Dialogue of Civilizations and Interfaith Solidarity," Speaker Jose de Venecia spoke of the imperative to reach out to young peoples in the Muslim world. "We must communicate to them the promises of 'modernity'—the opportunity it offers them to realize the fullest possibilities of their lives," he stressed. This need is now being realized, as it has become apparent that poverty and lack of hope for the future are what make the Muslim youths turn to radicalism.

* * *

**In recent days much attention has been paid to the fact that some of the MILF combatants turned out to be mere boys of ages 14 to 16. Social Welfare Secretary Corazon Soliman aired an appeal to the MILF "not to deprive our children of their innocence," but the fact is that this is happening because those young people see little hope in their future. Deputy Speaker Gerry Salapuddin recounted to this columnist that he became an MNLF commander right after high school due to "an accident of poverty." Luckily for him, he was able to return to the fold of the law and pull himself up to become deputy speaker by dint of education and hard work. But thousands of poor Muslims have not been as lucky.**

* * *

In the end, as Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process Eduardo Ermita put it, the best strategy against Muslim radicalism is still education. I agree. And one of the best ways of using the US fund allocations for the development of Muslim Mindanao is to invest in scholarships for poor but bright young Muslims. This is the only way to pull the masses away from manipulation by the various Moro ruling elites.

The use of the funds, however, needs careful monitoring. For instance, the Mindanao State University has one of the biggest per capita budgets among state universities, but there are doubts if its funds are being used wisely and prudently.

# A deadly image problem

## COMMENTARY

*Dr. Shigeru Omi*

ONE of the strongest symbols of American youth culture in the 1950s was the actor James Dean. Usually photographed in a black T-shirt with a cigarette dangling from his mouth, he created a cult-like image that immortalized him.

Fans faithfully followed whatever Dean did. When he swept an Ace comb through his hair in the film "Rebel Without a Cause," sales of the comb soared. No doubt, his cigarette-smoking helped to persuade countless teenagers to take up smoking.

Smoking also helped to define the image of many other Hollywood legends, particularly in the days of black-and-white films. Who could imagine Humphrey Bogart without a cigarette in his mouth? For actresses, smoking could help enhance an image of being sexy and strong.

These actors and their films helped in turn to promote smoking as "cool," sophisticated, macho, sexy and defiant.

Yet, what we failed to hear about is the devastating effects smoking had on these actors. Bogart died of cancer, as did Yul Bryner, Sammy Davis Jr. and Walt Disney. Lucille Ball, Bing Crosby, Clark Gable, Gary Gooper and Lana Turner also died from tobacco-related diseases.

In those days, perhaps people were not well advised about how damaging tobacco was, although the tobacco companies were fully aware that their product was addictive.

Today, we can see through this smokescreen. Tobacco is the biggest cause of premature death, accounting for one in three male deaths in middle age.

There is a mountain of facts against smoking. It causes 90 percent of lung cancer deaths. It permanently damages the lungs, constricts blood vessels, decreases fitness, causes wrinkles and upsets sleep patterns. Half of all long-term smokers eventually die due to smoking-related diseases.

> Tobacco is the biggest cause of premature death, accounting for one in three male deaths in middle age

One would think that surely those positive images of smoking are long gone, that we see the habit today for what it is: a deadly addiction.

Some countries have moved to eradicate this killer by restricting advertising and sponsorship or by raising tobacco taxes. Singapore and Hong Kong have taken strong steps in this direction.

Yet, despite all such efforts, young people still continue to take up smoking. In Asia, between 40,000 and 50,000 young people start smoking every day.

How is it that despite all that we know about the dangers, smoking retains a glamorous image for many?

The tobacco industry has fought hard to maintain that image. Tobacco companies carefully associate their products with settings where the cool, trendy or glamorous can be found. They buy their way on to the silver screen by paying for product placement. They sponsor fashion or youth events or link themselves with fashion accessories, trendy bars and society parties.

Movies, with their trend-setting celebrities, are a big appeal for tobacco companies. Philip Morris admitted to paying $350,000 for Lark cigarettes to appear in "License to Kill." Lark was James Bond's cigarette of choice and Larks are featured at key points in the movie. Philip Morris also paid $42,500 to have Lois Lane smoke Marlboro cigarettes in "Superman II." Bond is still smoking—after a gap of several years—in his most recent film, "Die Another Day."

Today, more films dramatize smoking than films in the 1960s did. Indeed, most major Hollywood blockbusters depict smoking. Even children's films such as "Ghostbusters II," "Home Alone 2," "Honey I Shrunk the Kids" and "The Nutty Professor" show smoking and mention brand names.

Similar facts hold for the film industry on the other side of the world, Bollywood. Around 76 percent of the top-rated Indian films portray smoking positively. Millions of people have watched such idols as Raveena Tandon and Shahrukh Khan smoke.

By allowing our heroes to puff on screen, movie companies are endorsing a deadly, addictive product that kills an average of 10 people every minute globally. It is time for them to stop this publicity. The film and fashion industries need to kick the habit themselves and take strong and immediate action to save lives.

*Dr. Shigeru Omi is the regional director of the World Health Organization's Western Pacific Region.*

# Aspirational rhetoric

## HUMAN FACE

*Ma. Ceres P. Doyo*

THE MONTH of May, Press Freedom Month, is almost over. But not my three-week vacation leave from the hassles of journalism. I still have two weeks to go, I'd like to believe, even as the phone continues to ring, invitations to unfolding stories come and assignment reminders find their way to my cell phone. "*Oo na!*" I texted an editor, "m working on it tho m on VL."

As one fellow feature writer once remarked when made to account for working days, "We're at work even while we're staring at the ceiling." Or even while soul-vacationing on a hilltop retreat in Tagaytay.

I hate to see summer go but I also welcome the fragrance of the rain.

Well, INQUIRER readers must, by now, be familiar with that postage-stamp-size mug shot of a face that appears every day on a news page. That face does not always come out on the same page and spot. It looks like a space filler, much like little reminders on how to save water or use a trash can. But it is not a mere space filler, it is put there deliberately every day—the INQUIRER'S commitment to help pursue justice for a slain newsman and capture the one/s who slew him. It is the INQUIRER'S way of saying that we are not resigned to the fact that journalists' lives are ended in cold blood and that the perpetrators walk around freely.

Whose is that face? That is the face of police officer Guillermo Wapile, the alleged gunman who remains at large after escaping while in the custody of the police. The caption above the photo says, "Countdown to justice" and the caption below says exactly how many days it has been since Pagadian City journalist Edgar Demalerio was gunned down allegedly by Wapile. Today, it is 381 days since that bloody day. Demalerio was murdered a year ago this month.

Demalerio was the third journalist to be killed in Pagadian. Demalerio, 32, a radio commentator for dxKP-Pagadian, managing editor of the Zamboanga Scribe and host of a top-rating cable TV program "Enkwentro," was shot to death in the evening of May 13, 2002 while driving his jeep near the Pagadian City Hall and police headquarters. At that time, he was the 35th journalist killed in the line of duty since 1986 when democracy was restored. Three weeks ago when the Freedom Fund for Filipino Journalists (FFFJ) was launched, the dead numbered 37. John Belen Villanueva, the 37th, was killed last April. dwTI radioman Apolinario "Polly" Poveda is the latest on the list.

The FFFJ was recently formed to respond to the attacks against journalists and news organizations around the country. It is made up of media NGOs and concerned individuals. Although the attacks against media persons are monitored by international groups such as the Committee to Protect Journalists, International Freedom of Expression Exchange, Reporters San Frontieres, Article XIX and Southeast Asian Press Alliance, these tragic incidents get little notice in the Philippines.

According to the FFFJ, of the almost 40 journalists killed in the line of duty since 1986, no case has been prosecuted with satisfaction. There is a "culture of impunity" here which constitutes a major scandal among press freedom advocates around the world.

I was just leafing through a back issue of "Index on Censorship" published in London which has for its theme "Gagged for It: 50 Years of Free Expression" and I read that 50 years after the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was signed, Article 19 remains a "fine piece of aspirational rhetoric."

Article 19 says: "Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers."

It is succinct, unambiguous and wonderfully prescient, says Bill Orme of Committee to Protect Journalists. He adds: "Its plainspoken promise of freedom of 'information and ideas' for all provides the perfect umbrella text for those of us in the press freedom business. We take refuge in its universality, reminding governments that they, too, are signatories to this expansive document... In emerging democracies, civil libertarians can cite Article 19 as a kind of international norm to which their societies are ethically obligated to conform.

"Ethically, that is, but not legally. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights is a fine piece of aspirational rhetoric, but the governments that signed it never thought of it as binding. They never would have endorsed it otherwise. There was to be no global court striking down prior restraint rules or state broadcasting takeovers on the basis of the Universal Declaration...

"At the half-century mark, Article 19 remains more poetry than reality. On the first day of 1998, at least 129 journalists were held in prisons in 24 countries for exercising their ostensibly guaranteed right to freedom of expression..."

In the Philippine Constitution's Bill of Rights, Section 4 protects freedom of expression. Still, the killing continues because journalists exercise that right. The government may not be directly involved in these killings or in clamping down on the critical media the way it did during the Marcos Reign of Terror, but the mortality rate shows there is indeed a "culture of impunity" here.

The countdown on the Demalerio case is the media community's cry to be heard, for the government to act speedily. The voiceless run to journalists to amplify their cries. If journalists cannot get justice for one of their own, who will?

Please help us. Help the FFFJ.

* * *

*Send comments to cerespd@info.com.ph*

# Pregnant sisters

## YOUNG BLOOD

*Alix Dep*

*We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.*

THIS should have been an essay about my life—the best and the most reflective of the joys and sorrows that my 20 years of existence have been witness to. Instead I find myself writing about a continuing story of defeats and triumphs, one which I hope will live on long after I shall have finally conquered or succumbed to life's adversities.

This is no grand story. It started about four years ago. More than anything, more than my birth, that ordinary evening an eternity ago defined my existence. For the first time I was jolted from a deep slumber into wakefulness, but not to a bright sunshine morning full of hope but to the blackness of this dark life. It pulled me out of my cocoon of security and innocence. It was what my philosophy professor would have called a "disturbance," a "restlessness."

That night, I found out that one of my older sisters was pregnant out of wedlock. This may be of little consequence to some people; single women everywhere get pregnant after all. But this piece of news was what started me on a journey downhill.

My family decided to keep the pregnancy a secret from our relatives and friends. We hid her in Manila, where she could have the protection of anonymity.

I am now ashamed to admit that I was full of anger at my sister and whoever got her pregnant. We tried to be nice to her, but we couldn't manage it. We were continually reminded of her betrayal and the shame, the disappointment and the pain she brought down upon us.

We went on with our lives (or tried to do so), and then we discovered that another sister was pregnant. She was into her senior year in college, and of course she was not able to graduate on time. And we had to experience the sense of betrayal, the hurt and the pain all over again.

When the babies were born, I was surprised that, despite everything we had gone through, we joyfully welcomed them into our lives. My parents were especially happy about their first *apos*. MJ and Beth became the center of our universe.

Whenever I came home from school, I would go straight into the babies' room and take a peek at them. I would wake up in the wee hours of the morning to feed the babies when my sisters were too tired to get up. I learned to change their diapers, carry them in my arms, sing lullabies and rock them to sleep.

I taught them many things and felt exhilarated when they uttered their first word and took their first tentative steps. My heart would almost burst with pride at these achievements. I was ecstatic when they learned to call me "Aunt Di," and when they pointed me out from group pictures. They were for me the earth and the sky, the stars and the moon, my whole universe, my life.

And then another baby came along to steal my heart. Hannah is only 10 months old, but she has a firm hold on my heart just as her Kuya MJ and cousin Beth have. We have also learned to accept and love her.

We love the three kids. They may not have their fathers around, but I believe that our love for them more than makes up for this void—at least, for now.

I know that the real test of our love for them will come when we have to put down our defenses and summon the courage to tell them: "This is your father. Despite his absence from your life, learn to accept and love him as much as we love you."

Letting go—that would be the hardest part. I know it will come in the future, but for now I comfort myself with my silly dances and the noises that make them laugh their beautiful, wonderful, delicious laughter.

My sisters have paid a heavy price for their indiscretion. I have also made terrible mistakes. But if somebody asks me if I wanted to undo everything, I would say that for the sake of the children, I wish it it could be done. I wish that they were born when my sisters were ready. MJ, Beth and Hannah had to experience illness and material want that could have been avoided. I do not want them to experience such hardships. But still I would live this life over and over again, with all its joys and pains.

I feel blessed, despite all the sufferings I had to endure. Three Christmases ago, for instance, when our parents were away, I was worried about how I could pay long overdue rentals, bills and tuition. There were school days when I had to go without lunch.

Still I thank the Lord for wounding me and letting me see the essentials. Our family may often be cash-strapped, but we have one another: our parents who are always supportive of us, our eldest brother who is solid as a rock, and our other brother who never complains about anything. Our faith in the Lord and love for each other have kept us together. I am grateful to God for that.

*Alix Dep, 20, graduated last March with an AB degree in Political Science and is seriously thinking of going to law school.*

## THEY SAID

### Political suspense

"Now the suspense is back in the political situation. It's good."

*—Rep. Teodoro Locsin, reacting to speculations that President Macapagal-Arroyo will run again in 2004*

### Preemptive action

"Why should we wait for something to explode before we make the arrest?"

*—Deputy Director Gen. Reynaldo Velasco, explaining preemptive actions done by the police on bombing suspects*

### Prayer power

"I must have called on all the saints, including those still waiting to be canonized, to relieve the pain."

*—Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye, recalling the excruciating pain he suffered due to a slipped disc*

### A place to forget

"I feel like coming to a familiar place that I don't want to remember and maybe better forgotten."

*—Sen. Loi Ejercito, on setting foot in Malacañang for the signing of a law she had authored*

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# Taiwan seeks observer status in WHO

AP

I WRITE to seek the support of the Filipino people for Taiwan's bid to obtain observer status in the World Health Organization when it convenes for its annual meeting in Geneva this month.

We have stepped up efforts to convince other nations to support us in this uphill battle to rejoin the WHO because of the urgency of the health situation in Taiwan brought about by the SARS epidemic.

Taiwan initially escaped the worst of the epidemic. But with six more deaths from SARS and 23 more SARS cases as of May 12, the number of fatalities has climbed to 24 and of SARS infections to 207, making Taiwan one of the countries hardest hit by the epidemic.

We are very glad that in the face of the SARS crisis, WHO recently dispatched its first official delegation to Taiwan in more than 30 years. The arrival of the two-member WHO team is welcome and will go a long way in helping our health authorities and health care professionals cope with the epidemic.

Epidemics know no boundaries. This much the WHO acknowledges. At its 107th session in January 2001, the WHO executive board warned: "The globalization of infectious diseases is such that an outbreak in one country is potentially a threat to the whole world. The need for international cooperation on epidemic alert and response is greater today than ever before due to increased population movements, growth in international trade and biological products, changes in methods of food processing (and) social and environmental changes."

This was made even before the outbreak of SARS. With SARS now threatening to spread to other countries then, international health cooperation is truly imperative.

In the face of the SARS onslaught, health authorities throughout the globe cannot afford to let politics stand in the way. Health should be the top priority.

WHO's stated purpose is to facilitate "the attainment by all people of the highest possible level of health." I believe that if Taiwan is allowed to take part in the activities of WHO, we will not only be able to contribute to the attainment of this key objective, but also work shoulder to shoulder with the rest of the global community in containing the deadly SARS epidemic.

**—OWEN CHU,**
**first press secretary, Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in the Philippines, Pacific Star Building, Makati Avenue, Makati City**

# A case for simplifying taxes

I THINK the 10 unnamed department stores found by the Bureau of Internal Revenue to have made suspiciously low value-added and income tax payments in 2002 (PDI, 5/23/03) should not be given the benefit of the doubt. The finding was not only incredible, it defied common sense!

Department stores are essentially engaged in direct buying and selling of goods that are almost entirely subject to VAT. The cost of goods they buy for resale ranges from 50 to 65 percent of selling price and constitutes their single item of cost. Salaries and power bills follow, which are both VAT-exempt, leaving rent, store consumables and contracted services among the more significant sources of their VAT inputs, on top of merchandise cost. By no stretch of the imagination can these VAT inputs add up to more than 98 percent to bring down the department stores' net VAT payments to less than 2 percent of sales.

Of course, it is not unlikely that some stores may have made huge capital investments in 2002. But capital expenditures are not normally recurring business activities. Thus, it was a wonder that the 10 department stores ended up with practically uniform, suspiciously low, VAT payments for the same year.

What is abnormal to the point of absurdity is when a firm pays an income tax that is lower than 0.40 percent of sales. That is like saying its shareholders have brought home less than one centavo in after-tax profit for every peso of sale. Unless newly established, why would such firms continue to operate if they make so little profit?

There is reason to believe that many other businesses whose main clientele is the general public, e.g., groceries, also declare artificially low income taxes. That is because, unlike those engaged in institutional sales, no tax is being withheld from their gross receipts by their individual customers. Thus, the cash flow constraints at the time of filing the tax returns may really tempt them to deflate their true incomes.

Such horrendous complexities of our corporate income tax system (it covers practically one-third of the tax code) should be reason enough to make us switch to gross income taxation. As things stand, in between the gross sales and the net income figures lie numerous loopholes for tax evasion. On the other hand, simplicity of tax returns and ease of tax collection unquestionably make for effective and efficient taxation.

**—RUDY L. CORONEL,**
**10 Venus St., Golden Country Homes, Alangilan, Batangas City**

# The folly of renaming streets

OLD habits die hard, specially the bad ones. This is true of city councils as it is of individuals.

Take that strange tendency of councils to change the name of streets for the flimsiest of reasons. One example is New York Street in Cubao, Quezon City. It carried that name for close to half a century, if not longer. But just a few days ago, all the street names bearing the name New York Street were changed to Pablo P. Reyes Sr. Street in the blink of an eye, and without so much as the courtesy of a public hearing.

That a man named Pablo P. Reyes Sr. is to be so honored or remembered is not the issue here. The issue has to do with the unreasonableness of changing street names that have become part of the lives of those residing on those streets. Common decency requires that honoring a man by renaming a street after him should be undertaken with responsible care so as not to offend the sensibilities of those who live there on account of their shared affinity with its previous name.

There is such a thing as having a sense of place, which can be as important as the reason for being. One's address follows that of a person's name. It is where he is. Changing a street's name is not as simple as changing one's shirt. To arbitrarily change a street name is to change one's known address. It is a source of confusion for it affects a whole bunch of documents like driver's license, passport, identification card, insurance policy, land title, map, stationeries, correspondence, among others.

In Quezon City, there must be other streets whose names don't carry much meaning and significance, and where it might have been more appropriate to make a change. Yet, they have chosen New York, named after the city in the United States. One must be deprived of some basic school education not to know the important facts about this city.

There are definitely more important matters the city government can attend to than to displace persons by changing the name of the street where they live. As Quijano de Manila once observed in a piece he wrote in March 1961 about the renaming of city street names, it is like going to sleep in one street, and waking up in another. But it is much worse than that. The indiscriminate renaming of city streets, in effect, reduces the status of its tax-paying citizenry from rightful inhabitants of a place to mere vagrants. It is high time this official malpractice is put to a full stop.

**—AUGUSTO C. GALANG,**
**past president,**
**Rotary Club of Cubao West,**
**11 New York St., Cubao, QC**

# 'Gabi na, bayan' if De Castro runs

I WOULD like to say "hooray" to your May 12 editorial titled "The show."

Truly, it would be "Gabi na, Bayan" if Noli de Castro becomes the next president of the republic. De Castro, who used to be the voice-over in Inday Badiday's "See True," has parlayed his "baritonic" voice from behind the scenes into the very front row of our political show.

Sometimes I get hives when I read your editorials—sticky with adjectives and inelegant of language—but this one is something that both student and veteran journalists can learn from.

I left in 1998 when Erap won as president. I keep on telling my friends that if Noli or FPJ or Ping Lacson wins in 2004, then I have no choice but to emigrate to Mongolia. I heard that Ulan Bator is a nice place to be.

**—DANTON R. REMOTO, Taman Desa, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia**

# MWSS sent wrong letter

THIS is in reply to the letter of Jesus Matubis Jr., manager of the Corporate Affairs and Media Relations of Maynilad Water Services Inc., claiming that Eduardo C. Santos; chief regulator of the MWSS-Regulatory Office, is prejudging Maynilad. (PDI, 5/24/03)

To clarify matters, the opinion supposedly rendered by Santos was a draft and an unofficial one.

Matubis complained about the portion of the draft letter that read: "We at the MWSS see Maynilad as the only failure but not the whole privatization process." It should have read in the official and edited version as follows: "We at the MWSS see the early termination case filed by Maynilad as a taint in the privatization process."

If Matubis would note, the unofficial letter was really a draft and unofficial since it bore the name of the old MWSS water project WIPDA or Water Improvement Project for Depressed Areas. This should have been the Bayan Tubig project of Maynilad and the Tubig Para sa Barangay of Manila Water.

The Public Information Department (PID) of the MWSS-Regulatory Office inadvertently sent the wrong letter. To further enlighten Matubis, PID intended to send the letter in reply (and not to prejudice Maynilad) to the negative report in the INQUIRER about privatization, entitled "Water experts discuss big flop" by Jerry Esplanada.

Santos has always presented objectively the gains of privatization—through the government's partnership with Maynilad and Manila Water—such as during the 3rd World Water Forum in Japan last April 2003.

**—ARKHON A. ANTOLIN,**
**manager,**
**Public Information Department,**
**Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System-Regulatory Office**

# Spitting in public

THIS should take one's breath away. Yesterday, for over 10 minutes we were stuck in traffic on Espana Street alongside a jeepney.

Without a by-your-leave, one of the jeepney passengers leaned out and spat. The spit—about a teaspoonful of it—landed a foot or so from our car. A few minutes later, he did it again. If the windows of our car were not closed, liquid droplets could have landed on us, full of SARS germs, I feared, plus *sari-saring sakit*.

Why do some people feel the urge to spit in public and others don't? The habit starts from childhood. The child sees his parents spitting on the street and he imitates them. That is probably why some children are said to be the spitting image of their parents. If the parents don't spit, the children automatically learn to swallow their saliva as it gathers.

Education Secretary Edilberto de Jesus should include lessons on why people should not spit in public during the first two weeks of classes which I understand will be devoted to educating the children on SARS prevention.

MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando should start a "no spitting in public" campaign. Stickers should be pasted on electric posts saying: "Huwag dudura sa kalye." Bus, taxi and jeepney operators should have signs in their vehicles telling people not to spit. Private car owners should provide their drivers with spittoons or themselves pay a fine if their drivers are caught committing such an antisocial act. If this no-spitting campaign succeeds, Fernando can run for president.

**—NATI NUGUID,**
**nati@nuguid.de**

# Caloocan road in terrible shape

WE hope to call the attention of Caloocan City Mayor Reynaldo Malonzo or Rep. Enrico Echiverri. While both are known for their various community projects, there is one project they have overlooked. This is the main road in Sta. Quiteria, Caloocan City, from the boundary of Tandang Sora Avenue Extension from Sangandaan, Quezon City to the Tullahan Road boundary in Valenzuela City.

The road is in such a terrible state that it is causing a lot of inconvenience to the people of Sta. Quiteria and others who pass there. Will the two leaders of our city do something about this, like cementing the road and improving the drainage system?

Mere asphalting of the road will not do. This was done several times before and it did not last long since. Heavy trucks pass through the road every day. Please help us solve this old problem.

**—ROLANDO DELA CRUZ,**
**Sta. Quiteria, Caloocan City**

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*Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.*

# Investing in our state universities

## PINOY KASI

*Michael L. Tan*

STUDENTS at the Philippine Normal University (PNU) are complaining about an increase in their tuition, from P10 to P50 a unit.

Fifty pesos a unit may seem very economical but the new rates do represent a 500 percent increase, and could mean some students actually having to give up their plans of becoming teachers.

There's always been a certain pride attached to being enrolled in a state university or college, the way one has to be a cut above other students to pass the entrance exams. And while everyone complains incessantly about poorly motivated faculty, dilapidated buildings, under-equipped laboratories and stinking toilets, the state universities and colleges will, by and large, offer a better education than many private schools, and for a much lower tuition.

We should remember, too, that it is these state-run schools which offer courses that you often won't find in private schools, including fields in agriculture, education, engineering, natural and social sciences, arts and letters. It is these schools that produce Filipinos who just run businesses and banks, but also give us a soul, daring us to dream and to innovate.

Even with the more "lucrative" professions such as medicine and nursing, it is the state universities and colleges which offer an affordable option, opening these fields to middle- and low-income families. And while many of the medical and nursing graduates of state universities will join the exodus to other countries, those who do stay will often end up in public service, well aware that they were "*iskolar ng bayan*" or people's scholars.

Ideally, the idea of state schools was to provide an environment to develop the brightest and most deserving of our young people. With assured government financial support, faculty members were supposed to devote all their time to teaching and research.

That has changed as state schools now face shrinking budgets. For two years now I've been in an administrative position at UP Diliman and have come to dread the memos urging more cost-cutting measures. Some of the measures are reasonable, such as switching off the lights when not in use, but others can be terribly disheartening—for example, having to forego the hiring of teaching assistants.

We're also urged to think of other ways of augmenting our meager budgets, applying for grants from external donors, for example, to do research. I've been able to do that for my department but I am learning that there are trade-offs too, more time taken away from the students because of meetings and paperwork required by the donors.

Amid the crisis, I do find inspiration from the way people try to overcome adversities. At UP Diliman, Palma Hall ("AS" to old-timers) is gradually being renovated, including long-overdue electrical rewiring. It helps having a dean, Cynthia Bautista, who frets constantly about how we're lagging behind the private schools and how we can't keep resting on UP's past glory. She thinks in terms of 10-year plans, not just for buildings but for faculty development and raising academic standards.

I think it's time as well to acknowledge the efforts of political science professor Carmencita Aguilar, who recently retired from UP Diliman's College of Social Sciences and Philosophy but still works on an extramural program she started years ago. This extramural program taps UP professors to train teachers from other schools, especially state universities, updating them on recent developments, and more. "More" being innovative teaching methods. Among those who have volunteered to help with the extramural program is Gareth Evans, one of the most popular Diliman faculty members, who converts his political science classes into living theater, including Shakespearean renditions which he demonstrates to very appreciative audiences in the extramural program.

"Mam Cita" Aguilar isn't the only retired faculty member who insists on continuing to serve the state universities and colleges. Prof. Jaime Veneracion went on to the Bulacan State University after retiring, offering his expertise in local history. And there's Prof. Oscar Evangelista, also retired from UP and is now helping the Palawan State University to develop their graduate programs. It's these "elders" who inspire younger (grin) ones like myself (I'm rushing this column because I'm off to Palawan to share with their faculty on teaching anthropology).

This is really a long way of saying we need to continue to pressure our politicians to increase the support for our state universities and colleges, even as we work, as individuals and groups, to find ways of improving the situation. At UP, I'm realizing how every donation counts. For example, a P55,000 grant from the Marcelo Tangco Foundation to the anthropology department allowed us to purchase more than a hundred new books. I joke about how our students are now finally able to read more than the 19th century anthropology classics.

For those of you who are often invited to lecture or to contribute articles, you might want to try what I'm doing now—requesting the hosts not to spend on those environmentally unfriendly appreciation plaques, or honoraria reduced to a pittance after withholding tax. Instead, I ask them to donate to state schools, suggesting books, an educational VCD or DVD or a subscription to one of the better daily newspapers (you know which ones) or magazines (I'd recommend the weekly Newsbreak).

Finally, we do need more scholarships. Call the Philippine Normal University (what's P50 a unit to train more teachers)? Or check with one of the state universities about supporting students to finish medicine, nursing or one of the health professions. At UP Manila and West Visayas State University in Iloilo, the full tuition is about P20,000 a year. Scholarships can be for books, too, or for living expenses. Since it's your scholarship, you can attach conditions, like earmarking a number of scholarships for Muslims or minority ethnic groups. You could require a minimum grade point average, or having the scholar serve in the Philippines for some time after graduation.

We can't just keep complaining that the government isn't doing its part. Take out those checkbooks and invest in the country's future.

# US lifts Iraq sanctions, warns Iran

**WASHINGTON—The United States lifted most remaining sanctions against Iraq in a bid to spur the country's redevelopment after decades of war and misrule, while warning it will not tolerate an Iranian-style Islamist regime there.**

US officials also sought to downplay the latest outbreak of guerrilla violence after two US soldiers were killed in an ambush.

The newly-appointed UN special representative said he would arrive in Iraq by Monday to start work as US forces captured two more officials of the ousted Baath party regime.

The sanctions decision, announced by Treasury Secretary John Snow, aims to build on momentum created by the UN Security Council last week when it unanimously voted to put an end to 13-year-old trade sanctions imposed on Baghdad in the wake of its 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

The decision by and large restores free commerce between the two countries, with notable exceptions being trade in arms and cultural artifacts illegally removed from Iraq.

"Today's action represents President (George W.) Bush's commitment to return the Iraqi people to the family of trading nations as soon as possible," Snow said in a statement. "The US has acted immediately to permit trade between the United States and a newly liberated Iraq and we call on other nations to do the same."

In New York, US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld—taking aim at Iran's ruling Shiite clerics—said the United States will not permit interference in Iraq by its neighbors or their proxies.

"Indeed, Iran should be on notice: Efforts to try to remake Iraq in Iran's image will be aggressively put down," he said.

US officials also sought to downplay the perception that the latest fighting in Iraq undercuts the US-led administration's claim it was getting a hold on security nearly seven weeks after Saddam Hussein's overthrow.

The two soldiers were killed and nine others wounded when they came under attack in the flashpoint town of Fallujah, west of Baghdad, from a "hostile force of unknown size," US Central Command said.

The command said two of the attackers were also killed and six captured after the early-morning ambush. Initial reports indicated the shots had been fired from inside a mosque.

On Monday, ambushers had targeted a military convoy on the highway between the massive US military camp at Baghdad airport and the occupation headquarters in the city center, killing one soldier and wounding three others.

US officers said an unknown attacker threw a bag packed with explosives, which destroyed the lead vehicle and shook surrounding homes. The attacker was shot but managed to escape. *AFP*

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY, BOB** AFP

**This file photo dated 1952 from the movie "Son of Paleface" shows US actor Bob Hope (right) and Jane Russell. Hope was born in 1903 and will celebrate his 100th birthday May 29.**

# New quake rocks Algeria; 3 feared killed

ALGIERS—Three people were believed killed and 187 were injured when a new earthquake hit Algeria on Tuesday, flattening some buildings and terrifying Algerians less than a week after a quake killed 2,200 people, officials said.

Several buildings collapsed in the towns of Zemmouri and Boumerdes as the new quake struck the capital Algiers and a Mediterranean coastal strip to the east that suffered widespread death and destruction in last Wednesday's disaster.

Officials said the quake measured 5.8 on the Richter scale and that its epicenter was in Zemmouri, some 50 km east of Algiers. The epicenter of last Wednesday's 6.8 quake was near Zemmouri.

"Unconfirmed reports from witnesses indicated that three people were killed when they were searching for their belongings in a 15-story block apartment that completely collapsed in Reghaia," said Deputy Interior Minister Mohamed Guendil.

He told state television people had been injured in Tuesday's quake "due to panic." The injuries occurred in Algiers, Zemmouri and Boumerdes.

"Families rushed out of buildings. Everyone took to the streets. In central Algiers people were scared, real scared, holding their children and babies in their arms," a Reuters correspondent in the capital said.

A civil defense official in the town of Reghaia said four people were probably inside the 15-story building on Tuesday.

"The search is still under way," he told state television.

The new disaster will put further pressure on already stretched hospital and other essential services. Many elite international rescue teams who flew in after last Wednesday's quake left on Monday and Tuesday.

Authorities urged people to be calm and stay away from any unsafe buildings. "Don't panic. It's a strong aftershock (from last Wednesday's quake)," said an official from Algeria's Geophysical, Astronomical and Astrophysics Research Center.

The latest official toll from last Wednesday's quake is 2,218 dead and 9,497 injured. Boumerdes suffered more than half the deaths. An estimated 20,000 people were left homeless.

With hundreds unaccounted for under sandwiched floors of apartment blocks, the body count could still climb.

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# China raids wildlife markets in SARS fight

BEIJING—Authorities are raiding wildlife markets and ports of entry in southern China's Guangdong province, seizing thousands of mammals, birds, snakes and other animals to stamp out the source of SARS, officials and state media said Wednesday.

More than 10,000 wild animals have been seized over the past two days at Baiyun Airport in the provincial capital Guangzhou alone, the Xinhua news agency said.

Pre-dawn raids have also been conducted at Guangzhou's notorious animal markets, with officers catching vendors by surprise as they arrive to unload their creepy, crawly, feathery or furry goods.

The captured beasts—which were destined for dining tables—include 267 pheasants, 54 foxes, 30 night cranes, 30 sparrows, 20 turtle-doves, 25 kg of snakes and six martens, a weasel-like mammal.

An official with the forestry and wildlife division of Guangzhou city's police department said the sweeps were continuing Wednesday, with restaurants and hotels to be targeted Thursday.

"We're confiscating all wild animals. We're also taking vendors' licenses," Chen Xibiao, head of the division, said.

"There will no longer be wildlife in the markets, only animals like geese and chickens," Chen said, adding dogs and cats will still be sold.

Wild animals have become the focus of China's months-long battle to curb the spread of the virus which causes Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome.

The disease is believed to have originated in Guangdong and mainland China and Hong Kong scientists recently concluded it came from wild animals, namely the civet cats and raccoon dogs, and likely jumped to humans.

Both civets and raccoons, found to carry the virus, are widely traded and eaten in Guangdong.

But since the research findings were announced last Friday, vendors have removed the animals from markets. The government now wants to stop the habit of eating wildlife altogether.

How far the government will go remains to be seen. Eating turtles, drinking snake wine and bird soup is entrenched in the culture and Cantonese believe they are good for health.

"People who want to show off their status and money would take friends to eat wildlife," Chen said.

The trade has become highly lucrative, driven by rising incomes.

Daily earnings at the Xinyuan and three other markets in Guangzhou exceed one million yuan (about $120,000), Xinhua said.

In Xinyuan market alone, earnings could reach as high as 1.9 million yuan a day, with the annual income topping 700 to 800 million yuan.

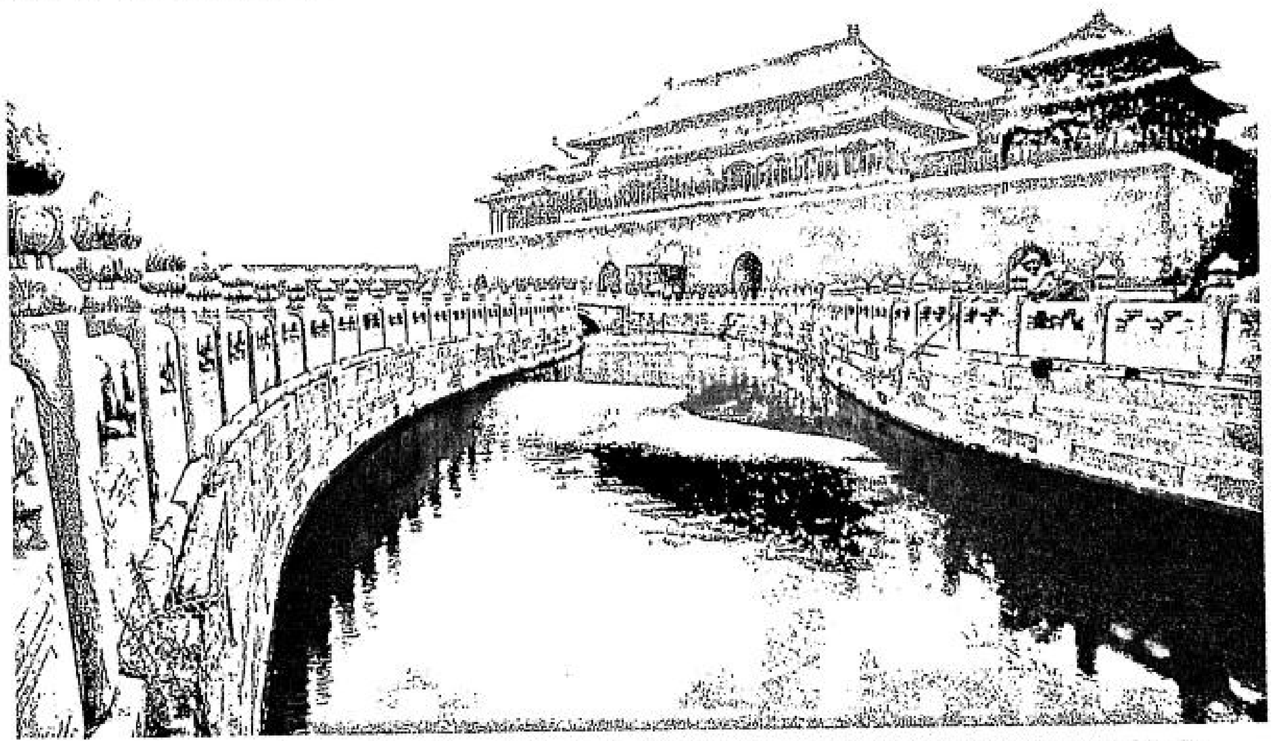
"The ban will have a definite impact on our economy," Chen said.

But he said Guangdong must end the practice of eating exotic cuisine and expressed confidence the government can change people's culinary habits.

"We will carry out education to help the public understand that eating wildlife is not hygienic because the animals carry viruses," Chen said.

Authorities in Guangdong say they will release seized animals deemed healthy back into the wild and kill the ones that appear sick.

But animal experts said that could spread the virus to other animals and to humans, urging "humane euthanasia" instead. *AFP*



**ANGLERS** fish at a nearly empty Forbidden City in Beijing May 28 as foreign tourists continue to shun China's capital as the World Health Organization says there is no timetable to lift an advisory against travel to Beijing due to SARS. The embattled city's tourism industry will lose around 40 billion yuan ($4.8 billion), according to the Beijing Tourism Bureau.

REUTERS

# Toronto probes possible SARS case in school

TORONTO—Medical staff at some Toronto hospitals, fearing they allowed SARS back into a city that thought the battle was over, have put face masks back on and donned two layers of gloves as authorities probed a possible case in a school.

Local health services said late on Tuesday they would hold a press conference on Wednesday to discuss "possible SARS exposure" at a high school after a student went to class last week with symptoms of SARS.

If confirmed, the case in a Toronto-area school would mean the deadly virus escaped from the medical environment into the broader community.

Authorities said they were trying to contact everyone who attended the school between last Wednesday and last Friday.

The World Health Organization on Monday restored Toronto to its list of SARS-affected areas, 12 days after it had been taken off.

Masks first came off in mid-May in all hospital departments except SARS wards, because officials thought that Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome had stopped spreading.

But doctors now think the mystery virus lingered in at least one hospital ward for weeks, infecting patients, nurses and visitors.

"I think it's true that some hospitals around the city perhaps eased up on either screening or surveillance or some of the precautions," said Dr. Andrew Simor, chief of microbiology at Toronto's Sunnybrook and Women's College Health Sciences Center.

The latest outbreak started with a 96-year-old man, who died on May 1. Doctors never suspected SARS. Now they think he had the disease and spread it to other people, one of whom may have infected staff at a rehabilitation hospital.

Simor said the first patient's case was "very difficult to recognize." Twenty-seven people have died from SARS in the Toronto area, the only place outside Asia where the virus has killed people.

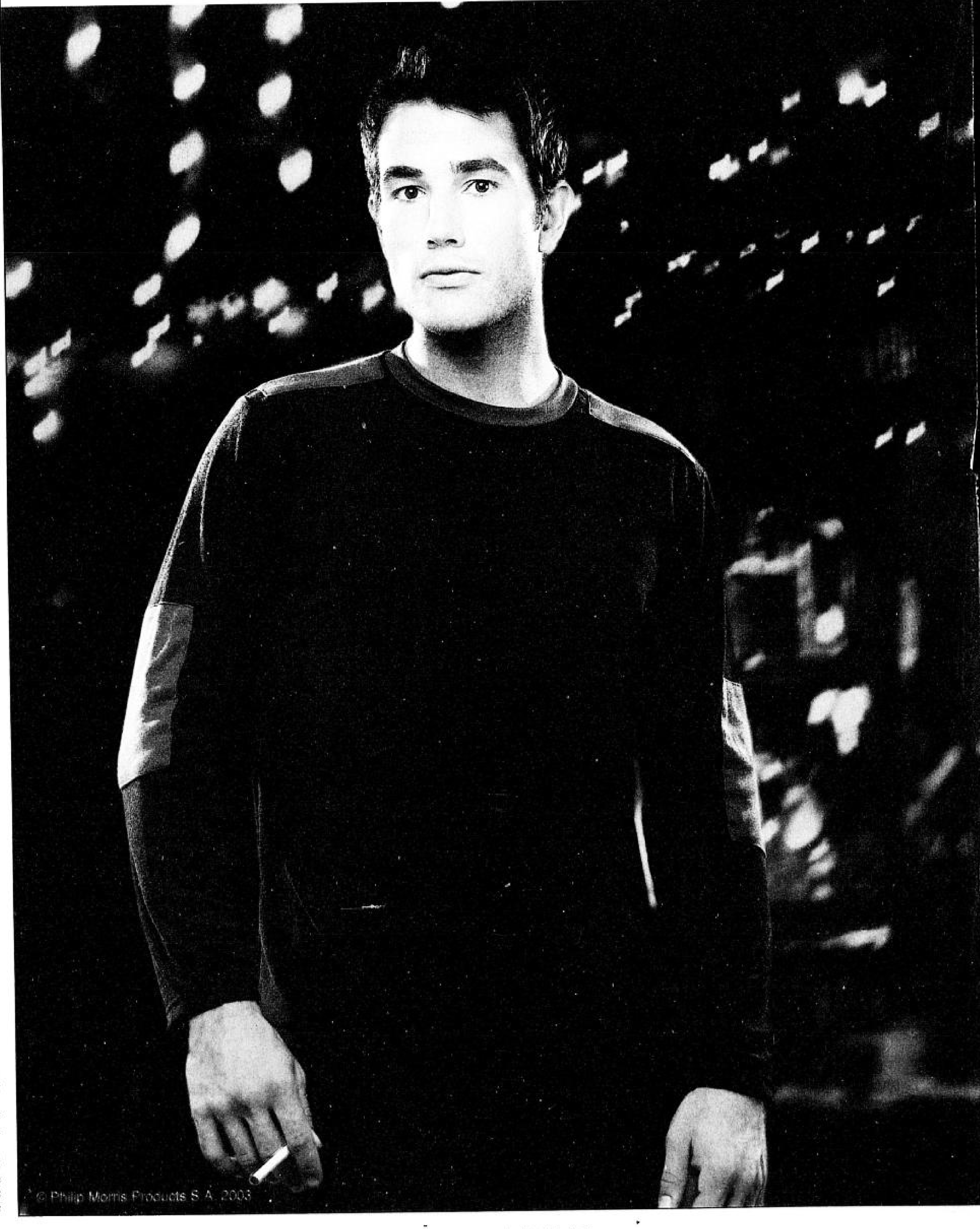
Medical officials told a Toronto news conference on Tuesday that Ontario, Canada's most populous province, had 12 active probable cases of SARS, one more than on Monday.

They said the number of people in home quarantine climbed to 3,442 from about 2,200 on Monday.

"There's no evidence to date of community transmission," said Dr. Colin D'Cunha, Ontario's chief officer of medical health.

But he warned that further cases could arise in the next several days among people who were exposed before control measures were put in place. *Reuters*

Warning: Cigarette smok



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# Bush sets summit with Sharon, Abbas

JERUSALEM—US President George W. Bush, fresh from victory in Iraq, will meet Israeli and Palestinian leaders to push Middle East peace plans in the Jordanian Red Sea port of Aqaba, Jordan said on Tuesday.

The announcement followed the delay of a meeting between Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Palestinian Premier Mahmoud Abbas, due to what both sides called scheduling problems and not a rift ahead of the meeting with Bush.

Jordan's state news agency Petra, quoting Information Minister Mohammad Adwan, said King Abdullah would host Bush's summit with Abbas and Sharon.

It said a separate US-Arab summit would take place in the Egyptian Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheik and that consultations were under way over the dates of both meetings which Egyptian, US and Israeli officials said are expected next week.

One source said June 5 was a possible date for the Aqaba summit with Abbas and Sharon.

White House spokesperson Ari Fleischer said: "We have seen moments in the Middle East come and go before, when people thought they could achieve peace. This president is committed to seeing if, perhaps, this time peace can be achieved."

Fleischer cited "some formalities" with holding up an announcement. Bush departs on Friday on a trip that will take him to Poland, Russia and France as well as a likely visit to US troops in the Middle East.

On the agenda is the US-backed road map for peace that outlines reciprocal steps leading to an end to 32 months of violence and creation of a Palestinian state by 2005.

Israel's cabinet approved the plan on Sunday, with reservations. The Palestinians accepted it last month.

Palestinians said an Abbas-Sharon meeting could set the tone for the trilateral summit and voiced concern over Israeli reservations about the road map, many of them security-related, which had appeared in Israeli newspapers on Tuesday.

Bush pressured Sharon and his cabinet into accepting the road map earlier this week, a decision the Israeli leader defended by voicing both doubts and the realization Israel could not continue to occupy the West Bank and Gaza Strip forever.

Israelis asked whether Sharon had had a change of heart or had chosen the politically charged word "occupation" in a bid to show Washington, Israel's key ally, that he was serious about peace.

At a European foreign ministers' meeting in Crete, the clear message from Israel and the Palestinians was that Washington would be the key player in the road map's success.

Washington and Israel have sidelined Palestinian President Yasser Arafat in peace talks, accusing him of fomenting violence in the uprising.

Abbas, elected under US pressure for reform in the Palestinian Authority, said in an interview to the Israeli daily Haaretz that isolating Arafat sent the wrong message to the Palestinians.

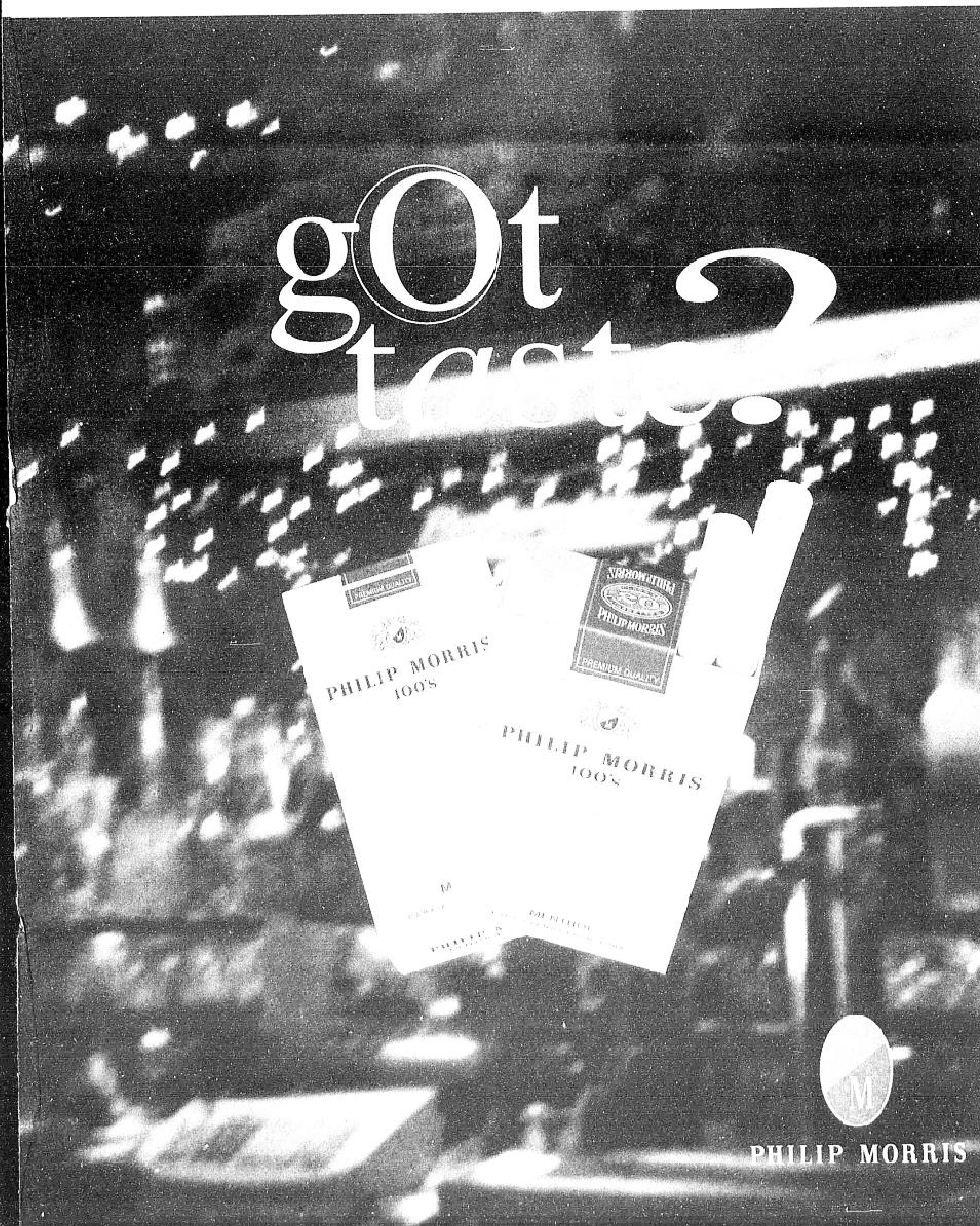
In ongoing Israeli-Palestinian violence in the West Bank on Tuesday, Israeli troops shot and killed a 16-year-old Palestinian during stone throwing clashes, Palestinian witnesses and medics said.

Military sources said soldiers shot and hit a Palestinian throwing petrol bombs, but could not confirm the death.

*Reuters*

**CARLA FROM PUERTO RICO**
**Miss Puerto Rico Carla Tricoli, poses for a photo at the Hotel Panama during the run up to the Miss Universe beauty pageant, May 27.** REUTERS

ing is dangerous to health



# US high court upholds secret deportations

WASHINGTON—The US Supreme Court Tuesday bolstered the Bush administration's ability to wage the war on terrorism, upholding a government policy allowing secret deportation hearings for foreigners believed to present a national security threat.

The court rejected an appeal by a group of media organizations from the state of New Jersey. The media group challenged an earlier ruling by a US appellate court giving the government the right to throw foreigners out of the country without a public hearing.

The outcome of the case is bound to strengthen the hand of the administration of President George W. Bush in its post-Sept. 11, 2001 efforts to screen foreigners living in the United States and remove from the country those who might represent a security threat, according to legal experts.

While US court hearings on immigration matters are usually public, the government decided in the wake of the deadly terrorist attacks that some of the deportation cases warrant examination in private.

In a memorandum sent out on Sept. 21, 2001, Chief Immigration Judge Michael Creppy instructed immigration courts to close all proceedings to the public and the press, when directed by the Justice Department.

In its challenge, the New Jersey media group and civil rights activists demanded access to the courtrooms, arguing the constitutional rights of the foreigners were being violated.

They scored a victory in a federal district court in the state but lost a subsequent appeal with the Third US Circuit Court of Appeal in Philadelphia.

US Attorney General John Ashcroft called the Supreme Court ruling "an important victory in support of our work to secure the nation."

He said in a statement that the Justice Department needed all available legal remedies to remove dangerous individuals from the country.

*AFP*

# Chretien admits major differences with George W.

ATHENS—Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien, whose rocky relations with the White House hit a new low over the Iraq war, admitted openly on Tuesday for the first time that he disagreed on many issues with US President George W. Bush.

Chretien's comments only served to underscore the gulf between the leaders of the world's two largest trading partners. The two men have not met since last September and on Monday they spoke by phone for the first time in three months.

Until now, the veteran Canadian leader, who plans to step down next February, has said the only major disagreement between Canada and the United States was over Iraq. Washington was angered by Ottawa's refusal to commit troops to the war.

But Chretien—on the left of the ruling Liberal Party—went much further on Tuesday, saying he little in common with the Texas Republican.

"Of course we don't think alike, particularly on social matters. He's a conservative from the southern United States and I'm a liberal Canadian," Chretien told reporters in a long and unusually frank conversation during a flight to Athens.

"I'm for gun control, he's against it. I'm against capital punishment, he supports it. I'm for the right to abortion—even though I'm a Catholic—and he's against it," said Chretien.

Chretien's relations with Bush deteriorated after the US leader walked away from the Kyoto accord on curbing global emissions of greenhouse gases, scrapped the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty and generally poured scorn on the multilateral diplomatic approach favored by Ottawa.

Canada's refusal to back what it called the "unjustified" war on Iraq because it lacked UN authorization prompted Bush to put off an official visit to Ottawa planned for early May.

*Reuters*

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## NPAs burn Globe cell site in Sorsogon

**By Ronnie Lorejo,** *PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

**LEGAZPI CITY—About 20 heavily armed men, all clad in black shirts and pants and believed to be members of the New People's Army, set on fire another Globe Telecommunications cell site in Matnog, Sorsogon, on Tuesday night, police said.**

Senior Supt. Arnel de los Santos, Sorsogon provincial police chief, said Matnog policemen were able to respond in 15 minutes after learning of the incident from a civilian informant.

Police investigation showed that the attackers arrived at the Globe facility in Barangay Banuang-Daan, about one kilometer from the town proper, disarmed the two security guards, identified as Randy Ginabia and Norman de la Rosa, of their .38 cal. service revolvers and seized their mobile phones.

They poured a gallon of gasoline on the floor and entered the radio communication room, De los Santos said.

They also used an improvised explosive made up of blasting caps and ammonium nitrate and a hand grenade placed in a tin can.

"The hand grenade did not explode as they failed to remove its pin," De los Santos said.

He said vital facilities inside the communication room were not totally wrecked. Only the ceiling, doors and walls were destroyed.

Initial reports placed the damage at P7 million, but De los Santos said the amount could have been bloated since the site was not completely ruined.

"Should the entire cell site have been burned, the damage could have reached P7 million," he said.

Globe's Matnog cell site tower was the third to be torched by the communist-led NPA. Two other cell sites in Sorsogon City and in Castilla town were also attacked late last year.

Recovered from the scene of the Matnog attack were a hand grenade, an empty gallon can, and a 50-meter electric wire used to detonate the bomb.

Army Brig. Gen. Pedrito Magsino, head of the 901st Infantry Brigade, directed his troops to conduct pursuit operations against the rebels who, he said, were led by a certain "Ka Rollie."

Magsino said extortion could be the only motive of those responsible for the attack.

He pointed out that the rebels were hasty in their attack as they might have sensed the presence of military troops on patrol near the area.

Magsino said he had been requesting the Globe management to increase the number of security guards at their cell sites.

"It's high time they should look into this matter seriously, since we cannot at all times focus our troops' attention on their installations," he said.

Magsino stressed that those supervising the cell site should deploy personnel who were not simply watchmen but fighting security guards to counter terroristic acts.

## Judge orders new probe of 5 suspects in Davao blast

DAVAO CITY—The regional trial court has deferred the arraignment of five arrested suspects in the March 4 bombing of a waiting shed outside the Davao International Airport that killed 22 people and wounded 135 others.

Executive Regional Trial Court Judge Paul Arcangel earlier ordered the City Prosecution Office to conduct another investigation of Esmael Mamalangkas, Esmael Akmad, Ting Idar, Tohami Bagundang and a 17-year-old suspect who were among the respondents to the cases of multiple murder with multiple frustrated murder filed in connection with the airport bombing.

Arcangel has granted the motion for a reinvestigation by the lawyers of the five detained suspects in order to avoid any delay in the court proceedings. He gave them 15 days to submit the counter-affidavits of their clients and other evidence.

The prosecution, which was already conducting a reinvestigation of the Sasa passenger terminal bombing, was also ordered to submit its findings within 30 days.

All five suspects will continue to be detained at the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) for security reasons.

Arcangel has denied the motion filed by defense lawyer Hamlet Pahm to commit the suspects to the city Jail.

"I uphold that the accused, to have better security, they should be detained at the CIDG," the judge told reporters.

On May 16, Arcangel directed Prosecutor Augusto Gonzales to conduct a reinvestigation on the other murder charges against the five arrested suspects for the Sasa Wharf bombing.

Pahm had asked for a reinvestigation, citing that the inquest proceedings conducted by the prosecution office were nullified by the fact that all the accused were "illegally" arrested by authorities and did not waive their right to preliminary investigation.

Pahm said there was no warrants of arrest issued. He argued that the suspects were arrested several days after the April 2 port bombing and, therefore, the arresting officers were not acting in hot pursuit.

The five were arrested in Cotabato City on April 8. Pahm added that the inquest officer should recommend the release of the person arrested if he found that the arrest was improper.

*PDI Mindanao Bureau*

**BEACH DUMP**

TOOTS SOBERANO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

**A young scavenger stands watch over his junk paradise, a three-hectare dump along the Tondaligan Beach in Dagupan City. The site was supposed to have been closed last year.**

## Storm spreads stench from oil refinery

**By Mei Magsino**
*PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

BATANGAS CITY—It was not only the rains or the monsoon winds that residents living near Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp.'s (PSPC) refinery in Barangay Tabangao here had to endure the past three days but also the foul stench from the facility's emissions.

In a complaint, the barangay chairs of Malitam, Libjo, Sta. Clara, Calicanto, Tabangao, Sta. Rita, Wawa, Bolbok, Cuta and San Isidro appealed to Mayor Eduardo Dimacuha and the city council to conduct an immediate investigation.

They alleged that the refinery had been violating Presidential Decree No. 984 or the Anti-Pollution Law.

Roberto Kanapi, PSPC general manager for external affairs, said the stench could have been come from the crude oil tanks in the refinery, but added that it was inherent in all petroleum and even non-petroleum companies.

"What happened here was that nature seems to have conspired against us. The monsoon wind blew the odor up north to the residential area that came only in the '90s. Shell has been here since 1962. We're doing everything we can to make sure that this doesn't happen again," Kanapi said.

According to Bing Veneracion, Shell Tabangao's operations manager, the company had been conducting studies to determine where the odor came from.

Shell investigators at first suspected the LPG flare tower as the source. The tower burns excess hydrocarbons.

Veneracion said they also suspected ships that unloaded the crude oil, possible leakage from trucks that transferred the fuel, and even hydrocarbon leaks.

But he discounted all of these possible angles when the odor lasted longer than expected. The stench remained even after the ships and trucks had long gone.

Hydrocarbon leaks cannot last long as the automated alarms of the plant could detect and stop the leaks immediately after it was detected, Veneracion said.

On April 28, the residents of Tabangao, Malitam, Libjo, Wawa, San Isidro and Sta. Clara had already complained of the foul odor. From May 25 to 27, the odor spread throughout Barangay San Isidro, a residential area with a population of about 5,000, and even reportedly reached the neighboring barangays of Wawa, Sta. Clara and Libjo.

It was up in the northern side of the city that the stench was the foulest and longest.

Dr. Baby Clerigo, a dentist and resident of San Isidro, said several children in her neighborhood vomited after smelling the foul stench for three days.

Frequent asthma attacks have also been reported in households here and in nearby barangays.

Their complaint, according to Tabangao Barangay Chair Joel Caaway, was further compelled after a grassfire hit the area near Shell Gas Eastern Inc., where the company's liquefied petroleum gas was processed on May 18.

Although the 45-minute fire burned only a grassy area 200 meters from the LPG tanks, it raised the fears among residents of the barangays near the compound.

"The fire could have caused the entire refinery to explode, and it might affect the entire city," Caaway said.

But Veneracion said the fire could have been caused by a spark from the flare tower that burns the excess hydrocarbons in the gas plant. "That is a very remote chance because the flare is as far as 200 meters from the grassy area."

Another possibility, he said, was that some people "who now squat in our buffer zone could have accidentally started that fire."

"That grassfire was even impossible to reach the propane and butane tanks because those were already too far and the ground was also designed and equipped with materials that could prevent fire," Veneracion stressed.

## ROUNDUP

### Sugar stocks seized

DAVAO CITY—Police on Friday seized some P6.6 million worth of refined sugar being passed off as a product of Bukidnon Sugar Co. (Busco). Chief Insp. Julito Diray, chief of the city police investigation division, said the operation was prompted by a complaint from Busco about the sudden drop in sales since late last year. Busco had suspected that some groups were illegally using its trademark. Policemen seized the sugar stocks in two warehouses in Agdao District, but failed to arrest the reported owner, Ricardo Santiago, who was said to be in Manila.

*Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

### Communist plot

DAVAO CITY—The regional police command said it had uncovered a plot by communist rebels to attack remote villages of Compostela Valley. Chief Supt. Isidro Lapena, regional police chief, an additional police contingent had already been deployed to the province. Lapena said New People's Army rebels under Eduardo Genelsa, alias Commander Lando, had positioned themselves in Barangay Mainit in Nabunturan town, but their plan to attack was foiled. In Sta. Cruz, Davao del Sur, an NPA member surrendered to officials led by Mayor Joel Ray Lopez. Ruel Rauya, alias Ka Opao, 24, of Coronon, Sta. Cruz, reportedly belonged to the NPA's Front Committee 51.

*Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

### Drug pusher slain

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—A notorious drug pusher was killed when he reportedly tried to grab the gun of a Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) agent Thursday. Supt. Efren Alcuizar, PDEA Central Mindanao chief, said Dani Oto, listed as the No. 3 drug dealer in Central Mindanao, was being brought to Alunan Street here to identify his companions when he suddenly grabbed the sidearm of a PDEA agent, prompting other agents to fire at him.

*Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

### Tillers get land

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya—Agrarian Reform Secretary Roberto Pagdanganan distributed 52 certificates of land ownership award (CLOAs) to 83 farmers here as part of the government's land distribution program. The CLOAs covered 53.451 hectares of land from 19 landowners in the province. Pagdanganan also inaugurated P27.3-million worth of farm-to-market roads and a P3.2-million spring development and water system in the towns of Solano, Quezon, Bambang and Bayombong.

*Ben Moses Ebreo, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

### Double murder

ILAGAN, Isabela—A farm worker was charged with double murder and double frustrated murder before the provincial prosecutor's office in connection with the killing of two women and the wounding of two others here last week. Charged was Johnny Juan, 22, the principal suspect in the fatal hacking of Della Reyes and Merlinda Salazar, and the wounding of Teodora Dumarigue and Ryan Reyes, 3, all of Barangay Mapalad in San Agustin town.

*Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

### Cop accused of rape

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Police officials turned over a police officer accused of raping a 15-year-old girl inside a precinct in a Mt. Pinatubo resettlement site here to the National Bureau of Investigation on Thursday. SPO3 Alfredo Nucup Jr. was arrested on orders of Chief Supt. Vidal Querol, Central Luzon police director. Querol also relieved Insp. Elmer Tudlong, commander of the police substation at the Bulaong resettlement. Two more policemen who were on duty at the sub-station at the time of the incident were investigated. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

### SARS education

LEGAZPI CITY—To prevent possible Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) cases, especially among students, the Department of Education in Bicol will use the first week of classes in June to educate students regarding the killer pneumonia. DepEd Regional Director Teresita Diaz Naz said parents would be invited to join the classes in order to make the campaign more effective.

*Joyce Mejillano, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

### Ex-rebel nabbed

CAMP GENERAL SIMEON OLA, Albay—Police on Tuesday arrested a rebel returnee in Barangay Lobaloba in Libmanan, Camarines Sur. A police report said Roberto Nazareth, 27, of Pamplona, Camarines Sur, was arrested for cases of robbery and frustrated murder. Recovered from him were a .38 cal. revolver, grenades and ammunition. Nazareth, a former New People's Army member, surrendered in 1995 and was granted amnesty by the government.

*Joyce Mejillano, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

## Cops search for 17 cyclists

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—Seventeen cyclists were reported to have been missing since Sunday morning along the boundary of Rizal and Quezon, police said yesterday.

In a report submitted by the National Disaster Coordinating Center to Calabarzon regional director Chief Supt. Jaime Caringal, the cycling pack belonging to the Cycling Advocates (Cycad) jumped off from Barangay Sampaloc in Tanay, Rizal, and headed for Infanta, Quezon.

A certain Morchi Garcia, said to be Cycad's president, led the group.

Caringal said the cycling enthusiasts were supposed to arrive at Km 8, Barangay Magsaysay in General Nakar, Quezon on Sunday afternoon. *Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

### Countdown for Justice

**WAPILE**

IT IS exactly 381 days today since Pagadian journalist Edgar Damalerio was slain in cold blood. The principal suspect, police officer Guillermo Wapile, remains at large after escaping while in the custody of the police.

## This time, biggest rice cake

ILAGAN, Isabela—After attracting tourists to its giant armchair or *botaka* and giant tobacco cigar, this town will again do another first.

About 1,000 Ilagueños will simultaneously partake a giant *binallay* (native rice cake) during the celebration of the capital town's 317th founding anniversary today at the Rizal Park in Bagumbayan Village.

Mayor Delfinito Albano said the 0.6-meter (2-foot) thick and 3.7-m (12-ft)-high *binallay*, the province's native cake, has been associated with Ilagueños due to its symbolized values of zeal, perseverance, industry, strong will and steady effort.

"The highlight of the celebration is the moment for soul, what is an Ilagueño by attitude and heart and what is an Ilagueño all about," Albano said.

The faces of those who will join the celebration will be painted with the town's slogan "Ilagan Kilos Na!" and its logo.

The *binallay* has been associated with the town ancestors, according to old folk. "The trait of Ilagueños as hardworking people (can be gleaned) from the *binallay*," Albano said.

In unwrapping the food, one has to slowly remove the wrap so that the cake will not stick to the banana leaves.

"This teaches us to think more times before deciding on any matters. We have to persevere," Albano said.

The *binallay*'s sauce called *laro* is placed first on a plate because the food will stick. "This tells us that Ilaguenos should have that intelligence, a trait to prepare your life as embedded in our culture of hardwork and endurance," Albano said. *Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

# Gov't places 10 land parcels of Marcoses on auction block

**By Joey A. Gabieta**
*PDI Visayas Bureau*

PALO, Leyte—The Bureau of Internal Revenue in Eastern Visayas (BIR-8) is all set to auction off 10 parcels of land in Tacloban City registered under the name of late dictator Ferdinand Marcos and his wife Imelda Romaldez-Marcos.

Bernardo Gomez, BIR-8 district collector supervisor, said the pieces of property would be auctioned off on June 10 at the agency's regional office here due to the failure of the lot owners to pay real estate taxes.

Gomez, however, could not say when the former first couple acquired the property and when they had been remiss in paying the real estate taxes.

The parcels of land, he added, are part of other property owned by the Marcoses that will be placed on the block by the BIR. The others are located in San Juan, Metro Manila and in Ilocos Norte.

Based on the assessment made by the BIR central office, Gomez said the Marcoses owed the government at least P25 billion in real estate taxes, including the 10 parcels of land in Tacloban.

The BIR decided to auction off the Marcoses' property to raise funds in order to meet this year's collection target of P424 billion.

In an interview, Tacloban Mayor Alfredo "Bejo" Romualdez Sr., younger brother of the former first lady, said he was not interested in joining the bidding.

"They can have them," he curtly replied. The mayor declined to answer other questions related to the bidding.

The pieces of property are Lot No.016-0987 covering 220 sqm; Lot No.026-0988 covering 199 sqm; Lot No.026-0989 covering 234 sqm; Lot No.026-0990 covering 271 sqm; Lot No.026-0991 covering 134.34 sqm; Lot No.026-0992 covering 227 sqm; Lot No.026-0993 covering 238 sqm; and Lots No.026-0997,026-0996 and 026- 0995, covering 221 sqm each.

The lots are along Real Street where the Sto. Nino Shrine and People's Center and Library are located. The two buildings were built by Mrs. Marcos when her husband was in power and have been taken over by the government.

Gomez said the BIR was expected to raise at least P7 million from the auction proceedings. The floor prices of the lots ranged from P3,000 to P5,000 per sqm, depending on their locations.

He explained that the assessed values of these properties put under lien by the BIR were comparatively lower than those being sold by private individuals because the lots were "confiscated properties and that the BIR is not into real estate business."

According to Gomez, a square-meter lot located within the city proper is appraised at about P20,000.

Still, Gomez said nobody might want to join the June 10 bidding because the pieces of property were owned by the Marcoses.

He, however, clarified that the titles of the lots have been transferred to the ownership and name of the government. "The government is the absolute owner of these parcels of land,'" Gomez stressed.

In 1993, the BIR had auctioned off the lots, but no one showed up during the bidding, he said.

For the June 10 bidding, Alfredo Misajon, BIR regional director, will head the five-man committee that will oversee the sale.

A prospective bidder will have to deposit 10 percent of the floor price of the property that he or she wants to buy.

Gomez said any member of the Marcos or Romualdez families could join the bidding.

"I don't know of any prohibitions that they cannot join . . . that's one way of getting back their property," he said.

# No-smoking ordinance ignored in Iloilo malls

**By Ma. Diosa Labiste**
*PDI Visayas Bureau*

ILOILO CITY—Doctors have criticized shopping malls here for their failure to curb smoking within their air-conditioned premises.

In a forum held on May 16, representatives from Workers for Health and Environment (We Heal), Professionals for Social Reform (Pro-SR) and Iloilo Lung Care Foundation expressed concern over the effects of smoking in coffee shops at SM City, Robinsons and Gaisano malls.

Despite a city ordinance that bans smoking in public places, coffee shop owners allow their customers to smoke. The coffee shops are not enclosed and have no devices to contain or absorb smoke. Some are even located near toy stores.

Earlier, Kristine Joyce Rojo, public relations of SM City Iloilo in Mandurriao District, said the mall's management discussed the problem with coffee shop owners who promised to install table cards reminding customers about the hazards of smoking.

But smoking goes on without let-up.

The INQUIRER tried to call Robinsons Place and Gaisano, but their representatives were not available to comment.

Under the ordinance, those caught smoking in enclosed public places face punishment of six months imprisonment or a fine of P10,000.

But authorities here have not enforced the law as gleaned from the number of persons smoking in public places like malls and jeepneys.

Health advocates should also be concerned about the ill-effects of smoking as they are of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), said Dr. Louie Tirador, coordinator of We Heal, an association of physicians and other health workers.

He said many lives had already been lost to smoking due to lung cancer.

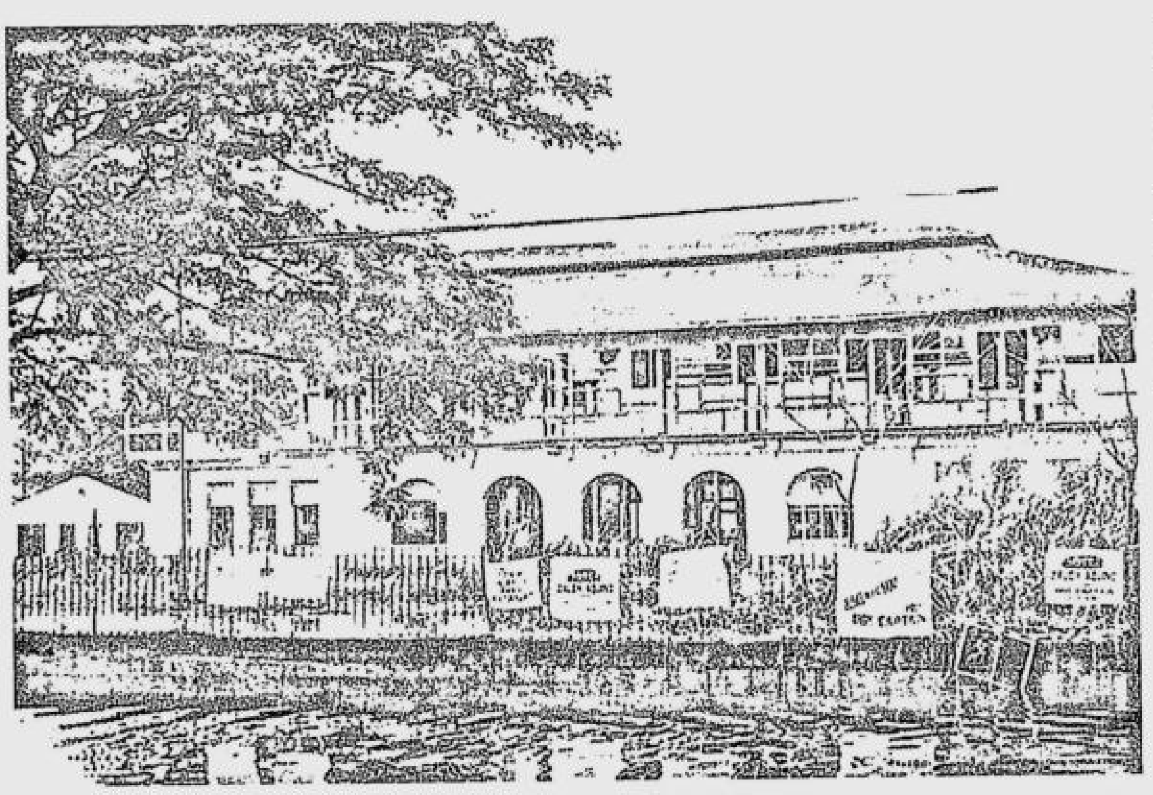
Tirador reminded the audience that a cigarette contains more than a thousand substances, about a hundred of which are toxic.

Dr. Lorelei Sirilan of the Iloilo Lung Care Foundation said many people were attracted to smoking because of the images projected by mass media through cigarette advertisements.

"Smoking is *sosyal*, that's why it is difficult to convince people to stop smoking because of peer pressure," said Sirilan, a pulmonologist.

Dr. Caesar Gardose of the Pro-SR, who specializes in treating diseases of the ear, eye and nose, said cigarette smoking had been blamed for the rise in a number of illnesses like sinus infection, *otitis media* (middle ear disease), coughing and hoarseness of voice.

Both smokers and children of parents who smoke are vulnerable, he said.



**THE REMAINS** of the Pampanga High School, which was built in 1912.

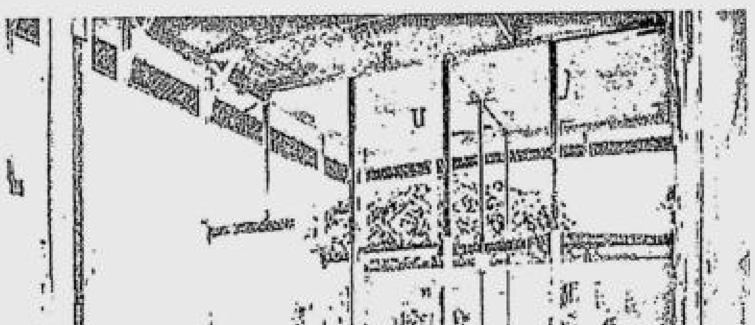
PHOTOS BY TONETTE OREJAS

# Looting threatens cultural center plan in Pampanga

**By Tonette Orejas**
*PDI Central Luzon Desk*

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—The looting of old hardwood at the former building of the Pampanga High School (PHS), which has produced the likes of the late President Diosdado Macapagal, has jeopardized the plan to start a provincial cultural center this year.

The two-story structure, which in 1980 became the site of the University of the Philippines-San Fernando extension program, has been systematically pillaged, according to officials of the Foundation for Lingap Capampangan Inc., (FLCI) a private civic and cultural organization.



**ONLY** the concrete ramparts, dilapidated ceilings and rusty iron roof are left after a series of systematic pillage.

A visit to the site in Barangay Sto. Niño here on Sunday showed that the wooden floors on the PHS ground and second levels were gone, indicating these had been taken without hindrance.

So were the doors, walls, stairs and wide *capiz* windows. The base of the missing posts showed these had been cut using a chainsaw.

What remained of the structure are its concrete ramparts, dilapidated ceilings and rusty iron roof.

Sources outside of the FLCI claimed that the wooden floors ended up in the house of Provincial Administrator Benalfre Galang in Sto. Tomas town, but the official has denied the allegation.

"The old wood I have in my house are the *travesa* kind (used as edges of the defunct Manila-Dagupan railroad tracks of the Philippine National Railway)," Galang said.

He said policemen arrested several looters who took four slabs of wood from the building two years ago. The seized pieces of lumber were impounded at the provincial engineer's office, he said.

Galang blamed squatters around the area for the looting.

Robertson Ragodon, whose house stands behind the PHS building, said looters in Barangay Sto. Niño ransacked the place at night. He said the looting started last year.

## Brigade watch

He said his stepfather, barangay councilman Antonio Carlos, had organized a brigade to watch over the place.

Ivan Henares, a local historian, said the PHS building was built in 1912 in what used to be the old Philippine Constabulary compound west of the provincial capitol.

It was constructed after Assemblyman Isauro Gabaldon of Nueva Ecija endorsed a bill ensuring the construction of public schools all over the country.

Following a singular design, buildings of this type were later called the "Gabaldon architecture," Henares said.

Former President Macapagal, father of President Macapagal-Arroyo, belonged to PHS Class 1929.

The old site also became the Second Station Hospital of the Department of Defense during World War II.

The UP extension program began using the building in 1980, according to UP Dean Dr. Juliet Mallari.

Alma Legazpi, a government social worker who lives at the nearby Bulaklak village, said the old PHS building also served as an evacuation center to residents during a big flooding event in 1972.

## Sanctuary

On Oct. 5, 1995 when Mt. Pinatubo's lahar spilled from nearby Bacolor town to Barangay Sto. Niño, residents sought refuge in the same building.

Last year, the FLCI signed an agreement with the provincial government to jointly develop the old PHS building into a Pampanga Cultural Center. The Kapampangan Museum in Clark would in time be transferred to the old PHS building.

Because the structure was ravaged, FLCI officials estimated they would need millions of pesos to salvage the place if not replicate its old grandeur.

FLCI officials have asked Gov. Manuel Lapid to order an investigation of the looting.

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INQUIRER Southern Luzon

Editor Jun Bandayrel
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# Mangroves still bleeding in Palawan

By Jofelle Tesorio
*Puerto Princesa City*

COMMUNITIES and nongovernment groups have launched the Mangrove Rescue Initiative (MRI) in Puerto Princesa City in recognition of the ecological importance of Palawan's mangrove ecosystem.

Representatives from villages affected by the wanton cutting of mangrove trees earlier appealed to government agencies, especially the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the Department of Agriculture and the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development, to take a careful look at their plight.

"*Dumudugo pa ang bakawang kanilang pinutol* (the felled mangroves are still bleeding)," said John Navarro, assistant operations officer of the Kilusan Sagip Kalikasan, an environmental arm of the provincial government.

## Culprit

Navarro claimed that a religious group, identified as the 4th Watch Multi-Purpose Cooperative, was behind the cutting of old-growth mangrove trees in Barangay Tagabinet in Puerto Princesa; Tabon, Quezon; and Malatgao, Narra.

[The INQUIRER tried but failed to contact the religious group.]

More than 200 hectares of mangrove areas have already been cleared to give way to fishponds in several areas in the province, the Kilusan said. The areas are not covered by any Fishpond Lease Agreement (FLA), it claimed.

Navarro said the trees were as big as electric posts. "Two or three hectares of these [mangrove areas] would produce a truckload," he said.

Several officials and employees in Quezon town were clearing the mangrove swamps for fishponds, he added.

## Support

The local government even initiated a resolution supporting the fishpond industry.

Erwin Guzman, chair of the Barangay Fishery and Aquatic Resources Management Council (BFARMC) in Taritien, Narra town, shared Navarro's sentiments.

He showed several pictures of destroyed mangrove forest in their area and said that the culprit was the same religious group.

Barangay residents are afraid of the armed men hired by the religious group to guard the fishponds, Guzman said. Only members are allowed to enter the premises.

Guzman said the council had been trying to talk to Pastor Dequina about the more than 20 hectares of cleared mangrove forest.

Leonardo Ortega, a former barangay councilman of Tagabinet in Puerto Princesa, said the 4th Watch Multi-Purpose Cooperative had even expanded its fishpond operation despite its pending application for an FLA with the DENR.

The religious group also cemented the entrance to the mangrove areas.

## Fishpond dikes

In January, the DENR, nongovernment groups, the city environment and natural resources office, barangay officials and other volunteers destroyed the fishpond dikes in Tagabinet that had blocked the flow of sea water to the other mangroves.

"We are afraid of what will happen," said Ortega.

Sarrol Kasim, a resident of Balabac, said century-old mangroves on the island had been destroyed by people who were after their tanbark, an ingredient for textile coloring. Businessmen have brought the tanbarks to Zamboanga, he added.

## Depleted

Navarro, Guzman, Ortega and Kasim urged the DENR, DA, PCSD and the local governments in Palawan to seriously take effective action to save the mangroves, spawning areas and natural habitats of different marine species.

Palawan has the biggest mangrove forests in the country, covering 43,782 hectares, according to the 1998 monitoring report of the Provincial Planning and Development Office.

A DA study reveals that more than half of the mangrove areas in southern Palawan are already depleted due to conversion into ponds for fish, shrimps and prawns, and extraction of tanbark. Only 25 FLAs in the province have been approved, while six of them have already expired, according to department records.

The loss of mangrove forests could also be attributed to charcoal-making and timber production, urban growth pressures, and worsening pollution.

## Imperatives

Lawyer Gerthie Mayo Anda of the Environmental Legal Assistance Center said the Mangrove Rescue Initiative was calling on the government agencies to undertake the following:

- Immediate survey and inventory of all illegal fishponds to determine strategies to stop the destruction of mangroves.
- Demolition of illegal fishponds.
- Review of existing FLAs to evaluate their continuing viability.
- Institution of legal actions against violators.
- Allocation of funds for the immediate rehabilitation or restoration of destroyed mangrove areas.
- Establishment of alternative livelihood projects for communities dependent on mangrove extraction.

Anda said a signature campaign would be conducted and petition papers would be sent to concerned government officials, urging them to take tough actions against individuals and companies that have been destroying the mangrove forests.

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# Magayon: Bicol's crowning glory

By Carlos Santos Gegantoca
*Contributor*

NOT a few assert that the Magayon Festival in Albay is the crowning glory of all the festivals in Bicol.

The month-long festivity attracts countless tourists from around the country and abroad. Also, its carnival atmosphere brings to Bicol the likes of the world-famous carnival in Rio de Janeiro in Brazil.

Magayon was derived from the famous Bicol legend Daragang Magayon, as well as Mt. Mayon, the most beautiful cone in the world.

Legend has it that, once, there lived a very beautiful princess who had an uncle named Magayon. He was so possessive of his niece that no man dared to challenge his wrath by courting the young maiden.

One day, a warrior was so smitten by the beauty of the princess that he threw all cares to the wind, clambered up the window of the royal chamber and enticed her to elope with him.

With Magayon at their heels, the couple prayed to the gods for succor. Suddenly, from out of nowhere, a landslide buried the raging uncle alive. Local folk now claim that it was Magayon's anger that burst forth in the form of eruptions.

## Brainchild

A brainchild of Al Francis Bichara, the tourism and development-oriented Albay governor, the festival includes the celebration of the Albay Press Week. Sponsored by the Albay-Legazpi Press Association, it is aimed at enabling press freedom to ring in this part of the country.

Other activities include the nightly shows at the park, art exhibits, Governor Bichara Cup, Magayon trade fair, scooter competition, pop concert and band exhibitions, fireworks, street party with the Salbakuta and Andrew E., boxing at the park, Daragang Magayon press presentation, mural painting, comedy night and Lakbay Albay.

Also held during the past days were a meeting of the League of the Provinces of the Philippines, cock derby, Radio City Night, photo exhibit, Farmer's Day, UP Dance Troupe presentation, All-Star Basketball, Magayon Bikini Open, Caravan for Peace, cook fest, Regional Open Dama Tournament, Sili Eating Contest and job fair.

To top it off, the Duelo sa Bicol II between world-famous billiards players Efren "Bata" Reyes and Francisco "Django" Bustamante was expected to be mounted yesterday.

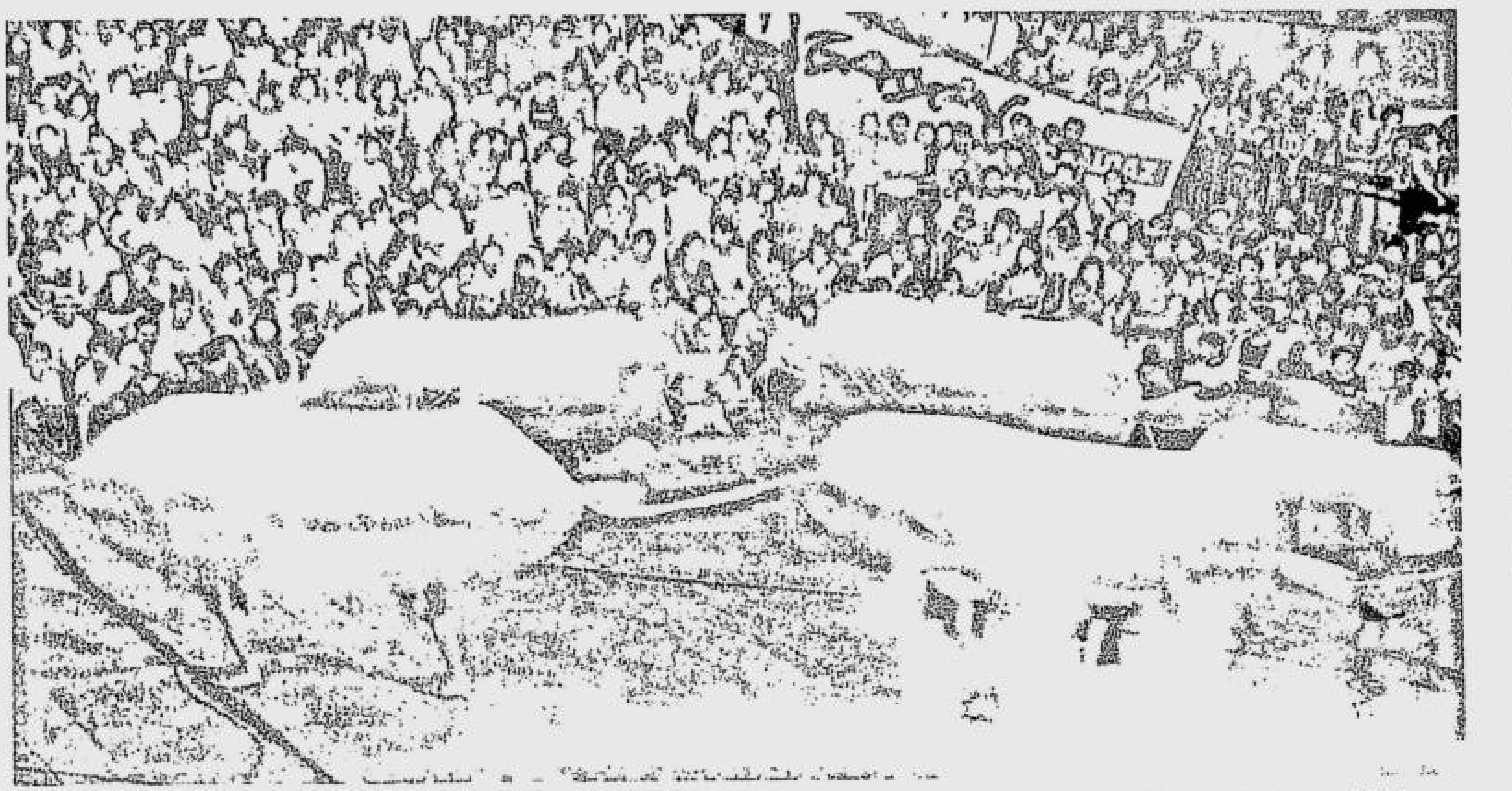
Actor Aga Muhlach and his wife Charlene Gonzales will lead guests in the culminating activities on May 31.

## Funding

The provincial government provided the seed money for the Magayon Festival 2003 to the Albay Tourism Council chaired by Lilybeth D. Estevez.

With the cooperation of the Albayanos and the guidance and leadership of those in-charge of running the festivities, the festival is expected to put the province on the tourism map.

*THE AUTHOR is a retired professor at the Bicol University in Legazpi City.*



**THE DELEGATION** of the Pagsuwak Festival of Guinobatan, Albay showcases its pride—the giant "longganisa" (sausage)—in an exhibition before thousands of spectators during the Magayon street dancing.
JESUS NIÑO ORBETA

**STREET** dancers from the "Katalingkasan Festival" of Libon, Albay join the Magayon street parade.
JESUS NIÑO ORBETA

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# *A week of merrymaking in Lucena City*

By Delfin Mallari Jr.
*Lucena City*

FOR residents of Lucena City, some 135 km south of Manila, the last week of May spells days and nights of continuous festivities dubbed "Pasayahan sa Lucena" in the league of, but not so wild and jovial as, the Mardi Gras in Rio de Janeiro and New Orleans.

The partnership of lawyer Euclides Abcede, then city officer in charge, and Aguinaldo Miravalles, then chief of the Bureau of Internal Revenue local office, gave birth to the yearly festival in 1987.

Originally intended as three days of spirited merrymaking in the streets, the event has become a weeklong tourist attraction, culminating on May 30 in time for the celebration of the Feast of St. Ferdinand, the patron saint of Lucena.

## Luring investors

"It was primarily conceptualized to lure investors, to show them the potential of the city as another investment area. But first, we have to show them that there is prevailing peace to erase the reputation that the province is a New People's Army sanctuary," Abcede, who is also a human rights lawyer, said.

He boasted that the city government then did not spend a single centavo on the project. The business community and other well-meaning Lucenahin, who all shared the belief that the endeavor was timely and worthy, volunteered to shoulder the cost, he said.

"What was highlighted during those initial celebrations was the collective spirit of the people to help showcase the best of what the city can offer not only to business investors, but also to share with visitors the fun and merrymaking in the mold of the Mardi Gras," Abcede recalled, as he expressed gratitude that succeeding city officials had continued the tradition.

Mayor Ramon Talaga Jr. described the festival as a concrete manifestation of the partnership of the local government and the private sector in their pursuit to enrich the city's culture alongside its development and progress.

## Traditions

As early as the middle of May, the whole stretch of Quezon Avenue from Trinidad Street down to the Perez Park, geared up for a fiesta, complete with traditional colorful buntings, which nowadays carry the logos of competing fastfood chains and other businesses.

Posters and streamers from business groups and politicians were also all over the place.

Every electric post along the major city streets was converted into a giant vertical platform of different business showcases and advertising come-ons.

In the past, when dusk set in, every side street along Quezon Avenue, the commercial section of the city, had a makeshift platform that offered free entertainment performances to the public.

**STREET** dancers in colorful costumes compete in last year's "Pasayahan sa Lucena."
DELFIN MALLARI JR.

## Activities

For three consecutive nights, several rock bands, coming straight from the Magsaysay Strip in Olongapo City, played. In another street corner was a much sedate videoke singing contest, and elsewhere, an amateur comedian tried his best to make the audience laugh.

The crowd sat in front of tables, guzzling beer, or downing glasses of the native fiery "*lambanog*" that made the rounds "*tagay* style," or partaking of assorted "*pulutan*" offered by restaurants in improvised stalls.

First-timers could not surely miss ordering the famous locally sautéd noodle called "*chami*," with a liberal dose of liver, *chicharon*, strips of meat and boiled quail eggs. So famous has the native dish become that a *chami* cooking demonstration is a part of the event every year.

## Theme

This year's festival revolves around the theme "Kay Ganda ng Lucena '03." It started with a ball sponsored by the "Ugat sa Lucena," an organization of native Lucenahins, last Saturday at the newly built and covered Quezon Convention Center at the back of the provincial capitol building.

The next night, several folk and rock music, and sound blaster groups converged on the track and field grounds of the Quezon National High School to perform in a Woodstock-type concert.

For three nights, a major portion of Quezon Avenue was converted by a group of department-store owners into a flea market where discounted items were offered to the public in a "midnight madness sale."

A bevy of local beauties in inspiring gowns composed the queens and princesses in a grand Flores de Mayo, an inherent part of the festivities and staged yearly by the association of local designers.

## Programs

Every year, the programs vary, depending on the concept worked out by the festival executive committee, now headed by Mitzi Flores-Piad, a known socialite-civic worker.

This year's festivities will include a boat-rowing contest along the Dumacaa River, Disco sa Kalye and Hawaiian Night, and will culminate in the street dancing and parade of colorful floats along Quezon Avenue.

This time, the floats will showcase the local customs and traditions, as well as the uniqueness of the city. Different schools, government and private offices, military, police and other socio-civic organizations will participate in the parade. A top cash prize of P50,000 awaits the winners.

Last year, the floats depicted the country's foreign influences—Malaysian, Indonesian, Spanish, Chinese and Japanese.

# Flood victims ask: Where's 'next president'?

From page A1

cursing him," Meris told the INQUIRER yesterday.

The commercial has three versions showing Reyes directing the public to be alert during fires and other calamities.

Heeding Reyes' call, Meris said he phoned the police 117 hotline at least four times after waist-deep floodwaters paralyzed traffic near Urdaneta at around 11 p.m.

Meris said a female operator finally accepted his call and told him that NDCC men were on their way.

Still no help came. "Everybody was hungry," he said. "Children were crying. Their mothers wanted to go outside and look for food but it was just hell out there."

There were also no traffic officers or barangay officials available to assist worn-out motorists, said Meris, who, along with his 20-year-old daughter Christy, boarded the Dominion bus in Cubao five hours earlier.

Traffic began to slow down near the Tarlac-Pangasinan boundary and ground to a halt as vehicles approached Urdaneta, he said.

Buses and cars pulled over on the side of the highway. Others braved the strong current coming from rice fields beside the road but stopped midway. One trailer slipped and fell on its side, further congesting traffic, according to Meris.

For the next six hours, he said he and other motorists, who by then were hungry, slept as floodwaters continued to rise.

16-hour trip

Meris said he and his daughter finally arrived home in San Fernando at around 10 a.m. yesterday. The trip from Cubao took 16 hours.

Asked to comment on reports that Pangasinan residents were complaining about the lack of relief goods, Lt. Col. Danilo Servando said queries about the goods should be addressed to the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

Reyes may have lost the support of the stranded commuters and motorists, but others hail him as "the next president of the Republic of the Philippines."

Reyes was repeatedly introduced that way in the first congress of homeowners associations in 16 Mt. Pinatubo resettlements, which gathered some 20,000 leaders and members at the Expo Pilipino in the Clark Special Economic Zone on Tuesday.

Mabalacat Mayor Marino Morales, chair of the Pampanga Mayors' League, ended up his long introduction of Reyes, the guest speaker, with that reference.

As if already on the campaign trail for the defense chief, Morales egged the huge crowd to cheer for Reyes. The audience applauded blandly.

### 3 hours late

By 5 p.m., the crowd thinned because Reyes came three hours late. Singer Imelda Papin, Camarines Sur vice governor, made many stay in their seats even as heavy rains poured on Clark.

"*Medyo mabigat yata yun* (That's quite a heavy task)," Reyes said of the prospect of becoming the next president.

"I only follow President Macapagal-Arroyo's orders," the defense secretary said.

Reyes then pointed to his 3-meter x 5-meter poster hanging at the bleachers section of the Expo's amphitheater. It showed a smiling Reyes urging "First Defense." The text tells how civilians can prepare for disasters.

### De-fense

Urging the crowd to join him, he chanted "de-fense, de-fense," with matching music from the Army's band. Few joined him, though.

Reyes told the crowd that because the Philippines had become the "most disaster-prone country in the world," Filipinos should cultivate a "culture of preparedness instead of a culture of reaction."

He recalled the difficult work of the Department of Defense, the first government agency that helped in the evacuation of more than one million residents at the height of Mt. Pinatubo's eruptions in June 1991.

Reyes then praised Ms Macapagal, noting that it was during her term that nearly 40,000 families, who had lost their homes to disasters, were given free houses and lots.

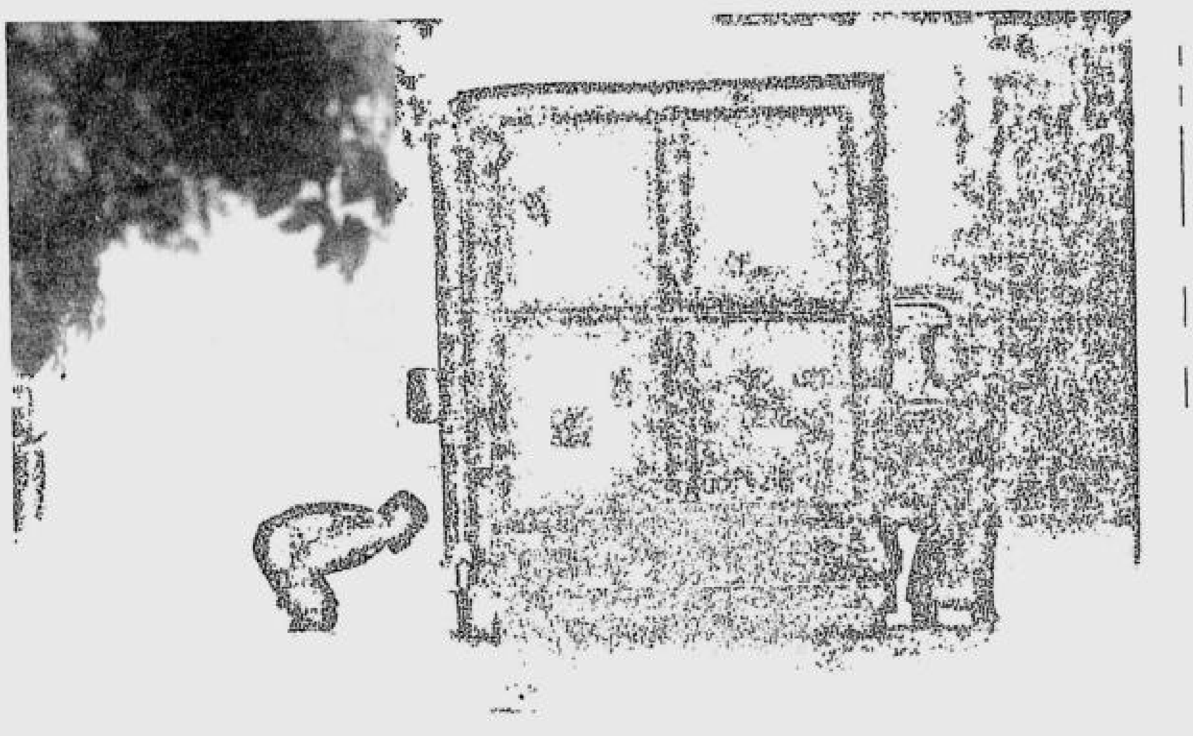
Although the program at the Expo Pilipino had one element typical of political campaigns in the country—the use of showbiz personalitiesReyes made no campaign promises.

But one of the emcees, Flor Arrozal, Pinatubo project management office deputy executive director, noted how the defense chief was "*masang-masa pa rin.*"

### P500 each

Before Reyes delivered his message, a homosexual and an Aeta woman came up the stage to kiss him. Louella, the homosexual, called him "Papa," a gay lingo for boyfriends. Cora Magsino, the Aeta, stayed long and demanded a hug from the secretary. On the prompting of Papin, they each got P500 from Reyes.

The political undertones of the event did not end with the giving out of bills. Housing chief Michael Defensor called Reyes the next president. "*Ibang-iba ang* appeal *ni* Secretary Reyes," the housing chief said.



STALLED truck: A familiar sight these past three days of "Chedeng's" rampage which had been relentlessly dumping wind and rain along its path.

ERIK ARAZAS

Asked if he was really seeking the presidency and was campaigning now, Reyes told reporters in an interview after the program that the "time is too early (for such a plan)."

"We just have to concentrate on doing our job. I don't think we should talk about that this early," he said.

Of Reyes, Defensor said he found him "a deserving person to be considered for the presidency."

Citing the defense chief's "long list of public service, outstanding service in the military, leadership and confidence," Defensor said: "In my book he's on the short list."

Defensor said many people were being considered in the Macapagal administration for the presidency and Reyes, he noted, was "one of them." *With a report from Martin Marfil*

# Evacuation centers: From hot to deadly

From page A1

6, according to the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

Soliman told defense reporters that as many as 58 children had died of bronchopneumonia, ulcers and diarrhea in evacuation centers in Pikit, North Cotabato.

The DSWD pegged the evacuee number at 210,419 individuals spread out in Western, Northern and Central Mindanao and the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

Families displaced by the military operations started filling up the centers in February. A second wave began coming after the President ordered intensive assaults on "embedded terrorist cells" in Mindanao on May 17.

Soliman said the DSWD had been trying to immunize the evacuees—a task that she described as difficult in view of the common fear of injections—and to improve sanitation in the centers.

### No heckling

She said temporary clinics had been put up in Pikit, where a measles outbreak was being monitored.

In San Juan, Soliman said the President received none of the heckling that, perhaps in another time or circumstance, could have marked her sudden appearance in the heart of her deposed predecessor's bailiwick.

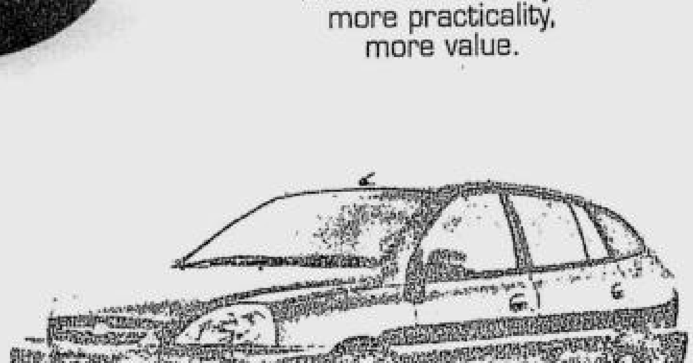
"Subconsciously, all of us [the President's companions] were thinking about it, but none of that happened. Some old women even thanked her for coming over, and shook her hand," Soliman said, adding:

"I guess this is because the situation is above politics; we're there to serve the people."

Mayor Ejercito, a vocal critic of the Macapagal administration, was not around during the visit that lasted for about half an hour, Soliman said.

San Juan landed in the President's itinerary Tuesday night because it was the first local government unit in Metro Manila to put up evacuation centers since Chedeng started dumping heavy rains over the capital on Monday.

The DSWD-National Capital Region said a total of 16 evacuation centers sheltering 303 families or 1,016 persons remained open as of late afternoon yesterday around the metropolis.



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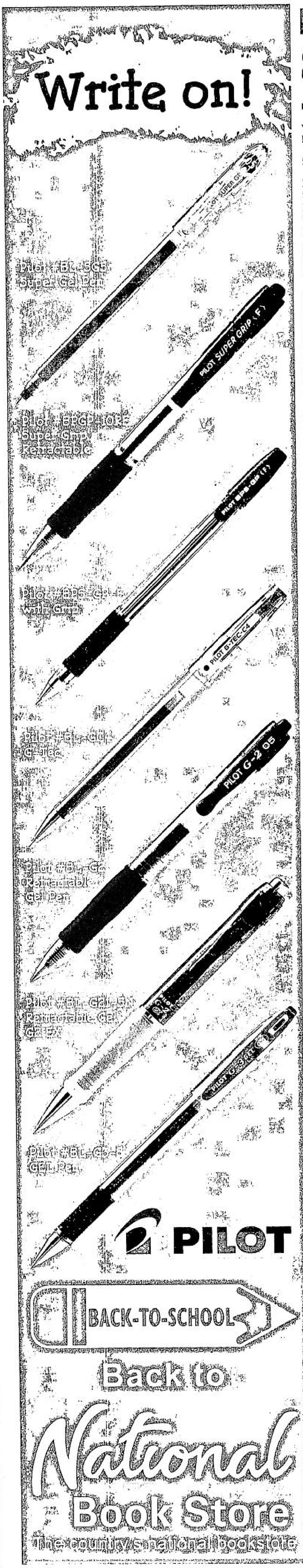
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# Seniors get new lease on sex, love

From page A1

Young by comparison, at least. Her new lover is 82.

So much for friendly companionship in the golden years.

Juska's new memoir "A Round Heeled Woman" is a graphic reminder that not everyone approaching 70, 80 or even 90 is content just to hold hands and gaze at the sunset.

The "round-heeled woman," which the book is named for, is an old-fashioned term for a promiscuous female.

Long-divorced, widowed and never-married older people are finding it easier than ever to satisfy their desires, partially due to the growing popularity of online dating. The same dating websites that were first adopted by people a third their age are helping isolated senior citizens connect with others who do not wish to spend all their days doting on grandchildren.

The popular Internet dating service Match.com features hundreds of members over the age of 80, including one 83-year-old man from Missouri who said he wanted a woman who was "lovely to look at, delightful to know and heaven to kiss."

One 70-year-old retired New Jersey school teacher who tried the service thinking it might be a good way to find someone to go to lunch with said she was turned off by the overtly sexual messages of most of the men who wrote to her.

According to Match.com, a survey of its members suggests that seniors as a whole remain a lot less romantically and sexually active than their children and grandchildren.

Only 20 percent of those who responded to one survey said they had been in a romantic relationship in the last year. Just 37 percent said they had been kissed.

## No to long walks on beach

Juska, a long-divorced schoolteacher living in liberal Berkeley, California, took a more conservative approach when she decided it was time to end a 15-year celibacy.

Rather than placing an ad on the Internet, she turned to the august New York Review of Books, where she thought she might meet someone who shared her love of literature.

"Before I turn 67," her ad said, "I would like to have a lot of sex with a man I like. If you want to talk first, Trollope works for me."

Juska minced no words either, when she began to hear from eager suitors. "If I can't kiss you all over, then cancel your travel plans," she wrote to one suitor. "Because long walks on the beach will simply not do."

A recent study of 1,300 men and women over the age of 60 by the National Council on the Aging found that 61 percent of the men and 37 percent of the women were sexually active. Some 61 percent of the men and 62 percent of the women said that sex was as satisfying or more satisfying than it was in their 40s.

Juska, who slept with a handful of men ranging from 32 to 84, and her book are drawing attention to sex among seniors.

"Dating is just as terrifying and interesting, risky, fun and exciting at 70 as it is at 26," she said in an interview.

Still, her frank memoir also devotes considerable time to showing that sex after a certain age is different.

## Any man would do

"What once was firm was loose, what once went up went down," Juska writes of her own body. Perhaps because of these flaws, a baggy sweater is her preferred attire when she goes to meet a new man.

The men, of course, are flawed too.

"His color is gone, his hair is gone, and My God, I think this man is old," she wrote of her initial reaction when her 82-year-old lover stepped off the plane.

But Juska spent a torrid weekend with him anyway. After a 15-year dry spell, she said, just about any man would have done.

"I was just teeming. If he had gotten off the plane in a wheelchair—or on a stretcher—it probably would not have dissuaded me. I was just in white heat." *Reuters*

# GMA's net worth up ₱5.2M after 1 year in Palace

From page A1

a Toyota Lexus luxury car from the Export and Industry Bank.

Asked by the INQUIRER as to Ms Macapagal's source of additional wealth, presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye had no immediate comment. He promised to give a response today.

As the President, Ms Macapagal earns an annual salary of only P600,000, although she comes from a well-to-do family and her husband belongs to one of the country's old-rich clans.

Based on her 2002 declaration, the most notable increases in the President's assets were in jewelry (P3.2 million) and appliances and furniture (P2.05 million).

In 2001, her declared value for jewelry was only P1.2 million and for appliances and furniture only P550,000. She had the same declared value for jewelry, appliances and furniture for 2000.

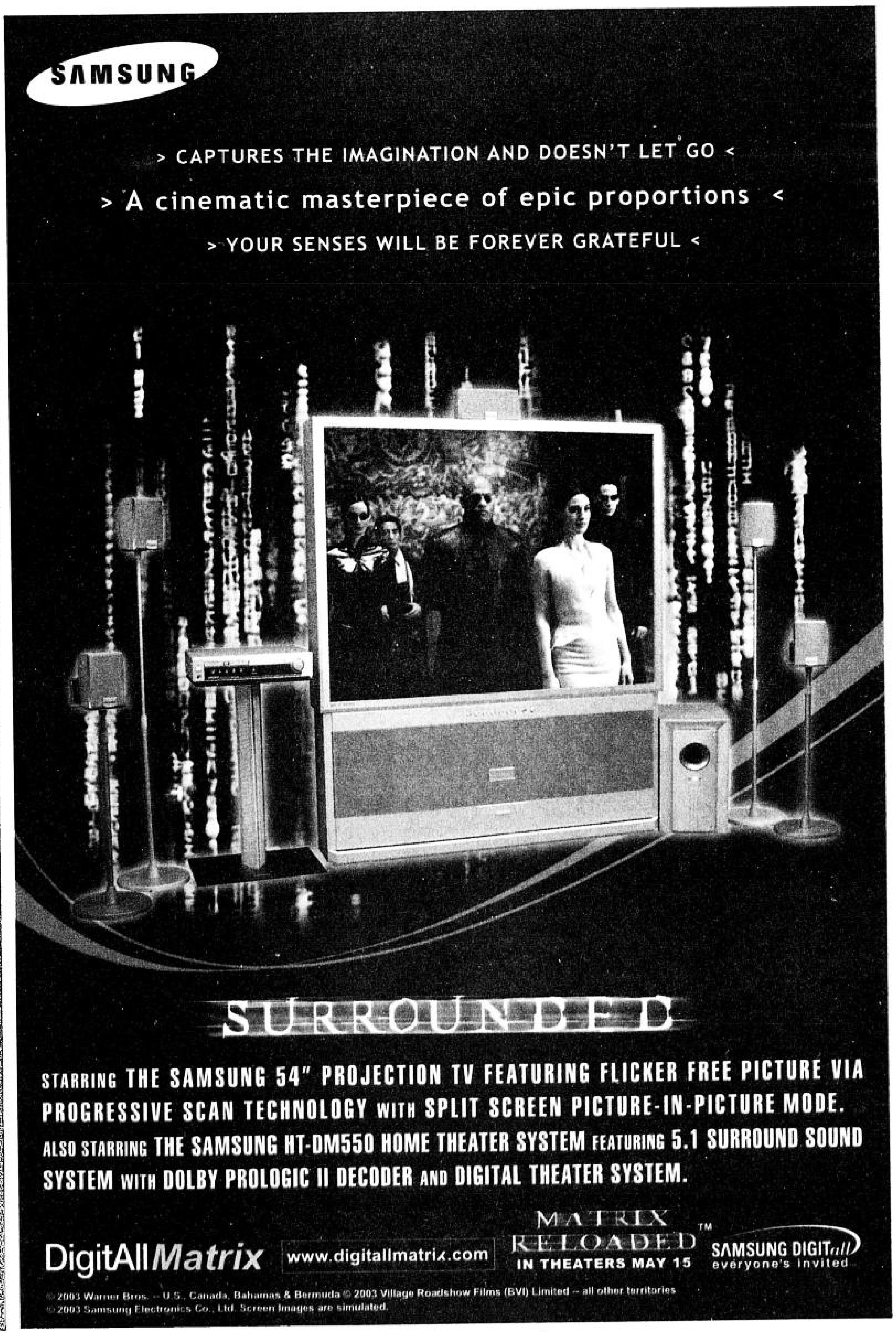
In her declarations for 2002, 2001 and 2000, Ms Macapagal gave the same value—P3.5 million—for her five pieces of real estate.

Her properties consist of a house and lot in Baguio acquired in 1977; a residential lot in Antipolo acquired in 1986; a commercial lot in Tayabas, Quezon, acquired in 1995; an agricultural lot in San Rafael, Bulacan, acquired in 1995; and another agricultural lot in Nasugbu, Batangas, acquired in 1997.

The President's other personal assets in 2002 were P55.78 million in cash; P1.7 million worth of law books; P6.88 million worth of cars; P995,000 in office equipment; and P1.4 million in inherited properties in the process of transfer.

Previous news reports said Ms Macapagal's net worth in 2000 when she was still the Vice President amounted to P61.9 million. In 1999, it was P41.5 million.

As in 2001, the President's financial statement for 2002 no longer listed First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo's businesses like LTA Inc. and LTA Realty in Makati and JJ Agricultural Corp. in Bacolod City.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# MILF declares 10-day ceasefire, but GMA wary

From page A1

"We are awaiting the MILF's positive response to our counteroffer," Ms Macapagal said in a statement issued after her meeting with top security officials in Malacañang.

The President said she also wanted to be sure that MILF leaders could enforce "discipline and compliance" among its fighters.

Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes said the government did not want a temporary ceasefire because the MILF had used such lulls in the past "to regroup and reorganize themselves, to get out of a tight situation."

"What we are saying is that we want a permanent ceasefire and there will be a start of negotiations and then there would be a period during which a peace agreement will have to be signed," Reyes said.

Maj. Gen. Roy Kyamko, chief of the Southern Command, rejected the MILF announcement as "a tactical move," adding that nothing short of the surrender of guerrillas responsible for recent attacks on civilians in the towns of Siocon in Zamboanga del Norte and Maigo in Lanao del Norte would stop military operations.

The MILF declaration, however, boosted hopes of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, peace groups and other nongovernment organizations that the fighting and suffering in Mindanao would end soon.

"Great news ... the CBCP is hoping the government would reciprocate," CBCP president and Cotabato Archbishop Orlando Quevedo, OMI, told the INQUIRER in a phone interview. "The return to their homes of more than 200,000 evacuees becomes more probable."

The renewed military offensive and MILF counterattacks have displaced 410,000 people on Mindanao, Social Welfare Secretary Corazon Soliman said Wednesday.

### MILF leaders meet

The INQUIRER learned that MILF chair Salamat Hashim met in Maguindanao with other top rebel leaders—Kabalu, MILF military chief Ebrahim, political affairs chief Ghadzali Jaafar, internal affairs chief Aleem Mimbantas—and agreed on the ceasefire declaration early Wednesday morning.

The government has issued arrest warrants against the five MILF leaders and offered a P5-million reward for each of them.

"This is in response to clamor for cessation of hostilities in Mindanao from peace loving advocates, including and most especially, the Catholic bishops," Murad said.

"We hope the government will reciprocate this good will that we, the MILF leaders, believe would pave the way for the immediate resumption of peace negotiations," Jaafar added, warning that the government's failure to do so "would be a big mistake."

He said the ceasefire would begin on June 2 to allow time for MILF commanders to spread the word to the group's 2,000 fighters.

On top of troop withdrawals and the dropping of murder charges, the MILF is also demanding that the government implement agreements reached during past negotiations, brokered by neighboring Malaysia.

"They are barking up the wrong tree," Kyamko said. "The target of military operations in Mindanao is not the MILF as an organization, but terrorists involved in attacks."

TOO early for a thanksgiving dinner but a member of the Scout Rangers fresh from combat takes a break at the headquarters of the 401st Infantry Brigade, 4ID, Maria Cristina, Iligan City.

EDWIN BACASMAS

"The only concession for them is to surrender," Kyamko said, adding that it was up to the country's political leadership to respond. He said the statement was "a tactical move of the MILF because they are suffering heavy losses in the ongoing operations."

Before embarking on her official state visit to Washington, Ms Macagapal on May 17 ordered intensified military attacks against MILF units in response to bombings and raids that have killed more than 210 people this year.

Ms Macapagal also gave the MILF until June 1 to renounce terrorism, abandon violence and surrender those responsible for a recent spate of bombings and attacks in Mindanao. Otherwise, she warned, the government will consider the MILF a terrorist organization.

Earlier this year, the government shelved peace talks being brokered by Malaysia after a spate of attacks, including three bombings, allegedly carried out by the MILF.

### OIC meeting

The MILF offer of a ceasefire coincided with the start of the foreign ministers' meeting of the Organization of Islamic Conference in Tehran, Iran. For the first time, the OIC invited the Philippine foreign secretary as a "guest" to the meeting of 57 member states.

Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said the result of Foreign Secretary Blas F. Ople's meeting with the OIC would be "very important" for the government in deciding whether to declare the MILF a terrorist group.

Bunye said Ople had brought with him the government's evidence on the MILF's "terrorist activities."

Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr., chair of the Senate committee on national defense, said the government should not let its guard down but grab the opportunity to restart the peace process.

Gus Miclat, executive director of the Initiative for International Dialogue, said he and his group were "keeping our fingers crossed that this time guns will be silenced and both parties will meet together and talk deeper on how to resolve the Mindanao problem."

US Ambassador to the Philippines Francis Ricciardone said Washington could play a supporting role in the peace process if asked.

"The US Congress has earmarked $30 million to support the peace process in the Philippines," Ricciardone told reporters. "That's not money we'll spend if there's no peace."

During Ms Macapagal's trip to the United States, US President George W. Bush praised her support for the US-led wars on terror and Iraq. Washington pledged several billion dollars to help the Philippine military, the farm sector and development on Mindanao. *With reports from Dona Pazzibugan, Martin P. Marfil, Michael Lim Ubac in Manila; and Tonette Orejas/PDI Central Luzon Desk*

# 'Chedeng' exits toward Japan, leaves 18 dead

From page A1

At 10 a.m. yesterday, the center of the storm was estimated at 240 km east northeast of Aparri, Cagayan, or 270 km southeast of Basco, Batanes, with maximum sustained winds of 75 kph near the center and gustiness up to 90 kph. It was moving northeast at 19 kph.

Public Storm Signal No. 1 is in effect over the whole of Northern Luzon, which is expected to have rains and occasional gusty winds today.

Chedeng was forecast to be 470 km east northeast of Basco or 480 km south southwest of Okinawa by morning today, and about 870 km northeast of Basco or 160 km southeast of Okinawa by tomorrow morning.

The Philippine National Red Cross has dispatched disaster response teams to the worst hit areas, including Caloocan, Valenzuela, Quezon City and Rizal in Metro Manila, and Dagupan, Alaminos and Calasiao in Pangasinan, according to Eric Salve, its national field representative.

Salve said 15 evacuation centers—12 in Metro Manila and three in Northern Luzon—had also been set up for displaced families.

### Pangasinan

In Barangays Maticmatic and Banaoang in Sta. Barbara, Pangasinan, policemen used rope to guide villagers to high ground.

Chief Insp. Leopoldo Rivera said rubber boats from the Provincial Disaster and Coordinating Council (PDCC) in the capital town of Lingayen had yet to arrive even as the shanties where five farming families lived were crumbling in the floodwaters.

He said he and his men had to carry the children on their shoulders when the waters rose fast in the low-lying villages located near the Sinukalan River.

Rivera said it took four hours to safely move five families to an evacuation center.

But the families' attachment to their belongings hindered the rescue operation. He said they had to alternately plead with and force the families to leave their homes.

Disaster officials said 156 villages in 15 towns and cities in the province were flooded.

In four villages in Hermosa town, residents were using boats to transport food and belongings.

Provincial administrator Virgilio Solis said major roads in Calasiao, Sta. Barbara and Manaoag towns were not passable by light vehicle. He said rubber boats and dump trucks were deployed to heavily flooded Mangaldan town and Urdaneta City to rescue residents.

A PDCC report showed that eight fishermen from Infanta town had been missing since Saturday.

In Pilar, Balanga City, Joan Gonzales, 17, reportedly disappeared Monday while crossing the swollen Pantingan River.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development in Central Luzon said 18,768 families or 87,625 people were affected by floods in 86 villages in Bulacan, Bataan and Zambales.

At least 40 families or 200 people in San Jose City in Nueva Ecija were evacuated, while 12 more families in Sta. Cruz and Iba towns in Zambales were moved to barangay halls or elementary schools.

### Ilocos

In Benguet, vegetables worth at least P4 million were destroyed by heavy rains and strong winds, Gov. Raul Molintas said.

Landslides damaged at least three houses in Barangay Dominican Hill in Baguio City. No one was reported hurt, disaster officials said.

Isabelo Cacho of the OCD in the Cordillera said the Binga and Ambuklao dams were nearing critical level.

In Laoag City, a landslide damaged the approach of the Patapat Bridge in Pagudpud town on Tuesday, the Department of Public Works and Highways reported. But the bridge, connecting Ilocos Norte and Cagayan Valley, remained passable to all types of vehicles.

Initial reports reaching the DPWH said boulders on a mountainside had loosened and damaged the bridge approach.

Gil Lorenzo, maintenance chief of the DPWH second district, said all roads connecting the southern towns of Ilocos Norte and Metro Manila remained passable.

Trees lining the road connecting the towns of Paoay and Batac were uprooted, but DPWH workers were able to clear the road yesterday.

In San Fernando City, 12 barangays in Caba, Sto. Tomas and Rosario towns were flooded, affecting 539 families.

The Rosario-Kennon Road has been closed to traffic.

In Barangay Dulao in Aringay town, a three-meter-long breach in a dike threatened to flood roads and houses.

### Western Visayas

Thousands of residents were evacuated on Tuesday night when floods hit Iloilo City and province.

Four towns and seven cities in Negros Occidental were literally in the dark after strong winds toppled electric posts.

Tornadoes mowed down 20 houses in Leganes, Iloilo, and about 20 electric posts in Nabas, Aklan, leaving close to 100 persons homeless and some towns in Antique and Aklan without electricity.

The twister struck at about 11 p.m. Tuesday in Barangay Cagamutan Norte, causing roofs to fly and leaving trees shorn of leaves.

Another tornado hit Barangay Nagustan in Nabas, Aklan.

Chedeng worked up the southwest monsoon, sending torrential rains that submerged farms, flooded communities and caused rivers, creeks and ponds to swell in Iloilo.

The City Social Welfare said 75,200 persons were affected in 60 of the 180 barangays in Iloilo City.

The Iloilo Bankers Association yesterday declared a bank holiday because the Bankers' Village, where many bank managers and employees reside, was heavily flooded. But some bank branches opened in the morning.

Hours of rain and floodwaters weakened roads and bridges. The Sta. Monica Bridge in Oton was washed out, and the Talungad-ian Bridge in Sta. Barbara destroyed.

In Negros Occidental, a blackout hit the four towns and seven cities after strong winds toppled power lines at about 11 a.m. Tuesday.

As of 6 p.m. yesterday, power had been restored in the cities of Talisay, Sagay, Silay, Victorias and Cadiz and the towns of Manapla and E.B. Magalona. *Reports from Martin P. Marfil, Gerald G. Lacuarta and Amy R. Remo in Manila; Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, Jovelyn Reyes, Cristina Arzadon, Gia Damaso-Dumo, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau; Carmela Reyes, Tonette Orejas, Greg Refraccion, Allan Macatuno, Anselmo Roque and Cesar Villa, PDI Central Luzon Desk; Ma. Diosa Labiste and Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

## *Farmers celebrate rains*

DESPITE the trail of destruction left by "Chedeng," drought-hit rice farmers are celebrating the heavy rains.

"We just finished harvesting, so there is no damage," Agriculture Secretary Luis Lorenzo told Reuters by phone.

"In fact, this should be beneficial to rice farmers," he said, adding that the ample water supply in the dams would help farmers preparing to plant the next crop.

The Philippines, one of Asia's largest rice importers, raised the volume it needed to buy this year to 1.01 million tons from a previous estimate of 800,000 tons because of worries that the hot weather in April and most of May would affect domestic output. It has bought 610,000 tons since the start of the year.

Lorenzo said the "impact" of the heavy rains, "if any, would be on the fishery sector."

The National Disaster Coordinating Council estimated damage to fishponds at P600,000.

# Rotting radar could have averted ferry collision

From page A1

in Tondo, Manila, while that of Ilaya was found in Ternate, Cavite.

The INQUIRER learned that Odasco took the ticket of one Mary Ruby Aganta. Odasco was supposed to come to Manila to take the teachers' board exam, according to her cousin Efren Caabay. "It's her," Caabay told the INQUIRER over the phone.

In Navotas, the bloated body of a woman wearing a life vest marked "MV San Nicholas" was fished out yesterday morning. Danny Dar Santos, action officer of the local disaster coordinating council, said the body was found floating in the river near Pitonggatang Street, Navotas, by some mussel divers.

Santos said the woman was tied to a yellow inflatable life boat capable of carrying five to six people. He described the woman as between 40 and 45 years old, and heavy built. She was wearing denim pants, white shirt, three gold rings, a necklace and a pair of earrings.

### Radar in Corregidor

In the early 1990s, a P20-million radar was installed in Corregidor but was never used. The equipment is now deemed too old to be of any use.

It was part of two projects the DOTC undertook to manage marine disasters—the Global Marine Disaster Signal System (GMDSS) and the Marine Communication Office (MCO), according to Imperial. The GMDSS project cost about P800 million and the MCO about P400 million.

The GMDSS was never put to use because the DOTC and the contractor, G.S.F. Thompson, a French company, could not agree on certain details about its delivery, according to Imperial.

Pieces of the equipment for the project are now locked inside vans in 16 stations in the country.

Imperial said the MCO project was abandoned because the frequency it was supposed to use was given to cellular phone companies in 1999. After three years, the DOTC has not found a new frequency for MCO.

The pieces of equipment for the GMDSS are not the top of the line. A newer version called the Automatic Identification System, or AIS, has superseded them.

Imperial said if the Coast Guard could have its way, it would acquire the AIS, which can pinpoint the exact location of a vessel, its speed, and its name, provided the ship has a transponder. The system works in the same way air traffic control towers function.

"We can tell meeting ships what course to take in a matter of seconds," Vice Adm. Reuben Lista told the INQUIRER.

"I hope we can be given the tools to operate effectively," he said.

Coast Guard officials do not know how much the AIS costs.

### Retrieval operations

Lista extended the search and rescue operations for possible survivors until sundown yesterday. After that, the Coast Guard will be engaged in "search and retrieval" operations, he said.

The Coast Guard learned that 30 inflatable life rafts that Super Ferry 12 had lowered on Sunday remained unaccounted for. "Survivors may still be hanging on to these rafts," Lista said.

BRP Kalinga of the Philippine Navy and BRP Edsa Dos again went out to sea yesterday looking specifically for the life rafts.

These rafts have water and food rations like chocolates and energy bars that could help passengers survive for 72 hours.

Officers familiar with the rescue operations reiterated that they did not expect to find any survivor. The discovery of the body of Ilaya seemed to confirm this.

The Coast Guard has also ordered Marine units in Bataan and Cavite to start patrolling shores. Lista said bodies might show up along coastlines.

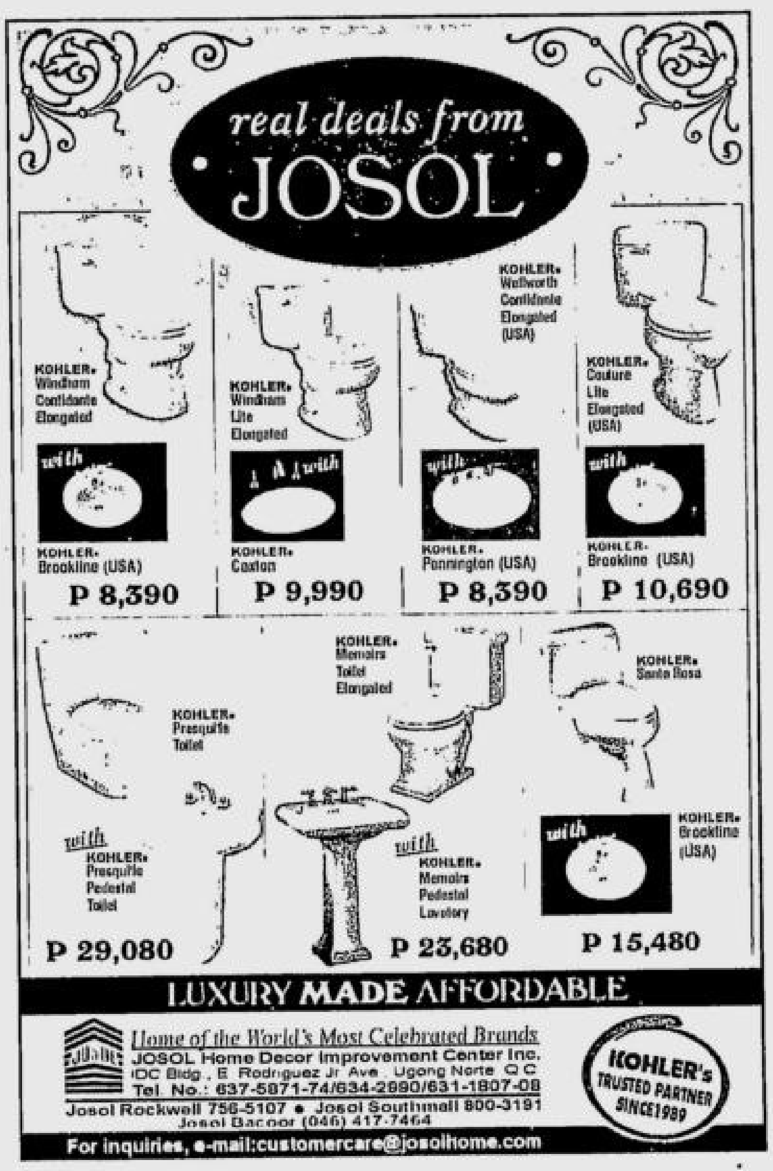
### Sleeveless blouse

Ilaya wore a sleeveless blouse, an Adidas sweatshirt and denim pants when elements of the 4th Marine Company found her. Her body is now in the Funenaria Jose in Banalo, Bacoor.

Odasco's body and that of a man found the other day in Manila Bay are now in the Popular Funeral Homes in Sta. Cruz, Manila. Odasco wore a blue "Penshoppe" T-shirt and black pants. She was around 5'2".

The dead man wore a white sandal, a T-shirt that had "Australia" printed on it and black short pants. He was found in the vicinity of the US Embassy on Roxas Boulevard.

In Habulan, Bulacan, the body of a woman believed to be 15 to 17 years old was found caught in a fishing net. It is not clear whether the woman was a passenger of the San Nicolas. Fishermen could not retrieve the body as yet because of bad weather.



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# Pranksters jam police hotline

**By Christian Esguerra**

PRANKSTERS are getting in their nerves, but the police can't do anything about them. .

A daily average of 20 prank messages reach the police 2920 text hotline which is intended primarily to accommodate police-related complaints, said Chief Supt. Oscar Valenzuela, director for Police Community Relations.

The hotline answers text messages sent via the short message system of cellular phones.

Messages, Valenzuela said, are oftentimes harmless: "Pizza delivery, please."

They are also sometimes rude: "Cops no different from crocodiles."

They could also be brutal: "Someone's being raped right now, please come."

Valenzuela said all his men could do were wait until the prankster got bored, or until he reached his credit limit. Each text message costs P2.50.

After that, the police would blacklist the mobile numbers of the prank texters, he said.

"Government resources are limited," Valenzuela told the INQUIRER at yesterday's forum at Ciudad Fernandina in San Juan. "The most that people could do is to be responsible texters."

The official noted that the Philippine National Police has only 114,000 men tasked to look after the country's 80 million population.

Valenzuela said police could not afford to waste their time responding to false reports and fail to act on legitimate complaints.

The PNP hotline, he said, receives an average of 200 complaints, 90 percent of which are "actionable." The remaining messages are prank calls, he said.

Most of the messages seek police assistance in robberies, rumbles, public disturbances, and other crimes, Valenzuela said.

They also include complaints of abuses against policemen and, occasionally, congratulatory remarks for PNP accomplishments, he added.

# Fire in the rain

**By Nelson Flores**

TWO persons were hurt in a 35-minute fire that broke out in Pasig City in the middle of a rainstorm last Tuesday night.

Fire Officer 1 Sheila Sumaray, Eastern Fire District radio operator, identified those hurt as Barangay San Miguel Chair Emerito Cruz and a volunteer, identified only as Maglipol.

FO1 Sumaray said the victims sustained minor injuries that only required first aid treatment.

Cruz and Maglipol were hurt when they were both hit by flying debris, Sumaray said.

Sumaray said the fire, which started at 7:56 p.m., partially destroyed a garments factory at the corner of Louis and Eusebio Streets, Maxville 6, Barangay San Miguel.

She said arson investigators are still determining the cause of the blaze.

"It is surprising that, despite the heavy rains, a fire incident would occur," Sumaray said.

Sumaray said the timely arrival of Pasig City firemen prevented the blaze from going out of control.

She added that the presence of barangay officials and police personnel prevented any looting.

# Honest guard turns over P.1M in cash

MAUCEA

HARD times are not enough to make an honest person turn bad.

Oscar Maucea, a security guard of the Power Plant mall at the Rockwell Center proved his worth as an honest man when he returned the P100,000 he found while making his rounds, instead of pocketing the cash.

Maucea, married and with three young children, was on routine patrol outside the mall when he spotted what looked like a bundle of cash on the road.

He said he had already noticed that some taxi drivers had been eyeing the bundle, while a driver of a big van had tried to block other people's way so he could get the money.

Maucea admitted that at the time, he was tempted to take the money, just like the taxi drivers and the van driver. After all, nobody would have known if he took the cash and brought it directly to the security office.

But Maucea has a clear conscience. He followed procedure and informed his fellow guards of the cash he found. The security office was immediately alerted and soon after, an American national came rushing in, asking if the guards had found P100,000 in cash.

The American, who was a regular at the mall, was asked where he lost the money and how it was wrapped.

Security officials quickly determined that the American, who worked at a nearby multinational company, was indeed the owner of the cash.

The American was actually surprised that the money was returned to him intact. Nearly speechless, he thanked Maucea and gave him a P5,000 reward then and there.

Maucea said that although he was tempted to keep the money, he knew it might cost him his job.

He added he had no intention of raising his children with stolen money.

# Tanod who hit PDI man not in hiding, says barangay exec

**By Leila Salaverria**

THE BARANGAY Bayan Tanod who hit INQUIRER editor Antonio Bergonia is not in hiding, said Barangay Tejeros Chair Lino Zaraspe.

According to Zaraspe, Tanod Cecilio Pamintuan is recuperating at home from wounds he received when the motorcycle he was driving hit Bergonia in front of the PDI building in Makati City on Sunday afternoon.

The barangay captain said that Pamintuan would be on hand should police require him to give a statement once a formal complaint is filed.

"We are guaranteeing that should there be a need to question Pamintuan, he will comply," Zaraspe said. "He is basically under the custody of a barangay *kagawad* now."

Bergonia is currently confined at the Makati Medical Center after breaking his leg in the incident.

After he submitted a story last Sunday, Bergonia left the Inquirer building on board a cab. When he decided to go back to the office, he was hit by the motorcycle. He was taken to the hospital by a concerned taxi driver.

Pamintuan was also injured in the leg and thigh.

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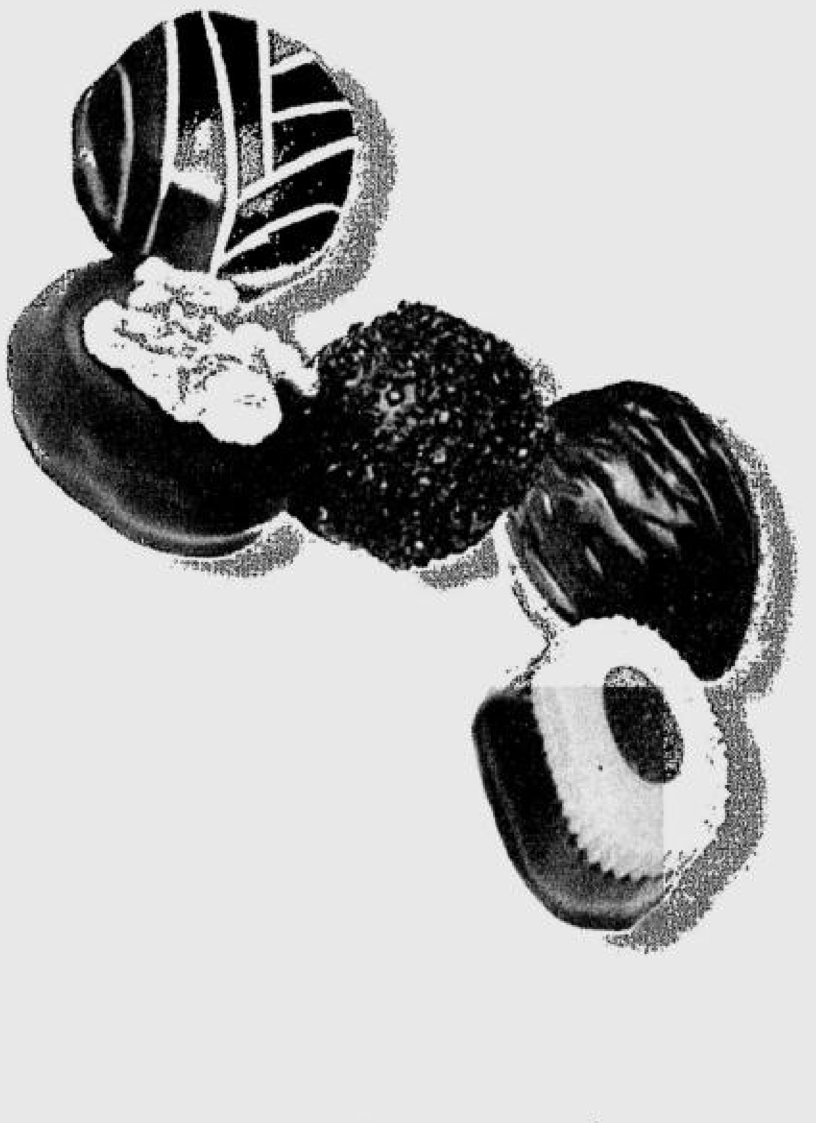
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**MEGALOTTO 6/45**
4 12 14 30 32 40

# METRO

E-mail: pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph

*Editor* Abelardo S. Ulanday

## BF says most roads passable

**By Leila B. Salaverria**

DESPITE the heavy downpour, and even if they were underwater, about 90 percent of the roads and streets of Metro Manila remained passable yesterday, according to Metro Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando.

Deputy Chair Cesar Lacuna yesterday said flood control personnel are going around major thoroughfares like Edsa and Commonwealth Avenue to keep the water levels low.

He added that the MMDA is concentrating on the main thoroughfares to keep traffic moving.

"We're sending teams to clean the flooded roads even if it is still raining," he said. "Actually, that's the best time to do it so the waters won't rise too much. We want to eliminate even the pocket floods."

Lacuna also said the MMDA had begun to deploy flood control personnel 24 hours a day because the rainy season came a week early this year.

He said the teams, which were supposed to respond to flooding even during the night, had been scheduled to start working only in June.

### Not alarming

The MMDA also set a May 30 deadline for the cleaning and dredging of the waterways.

So far, the flood situation in the metropolis was not too alarming, according to Lacuna.

"The floods subside faster," he said.

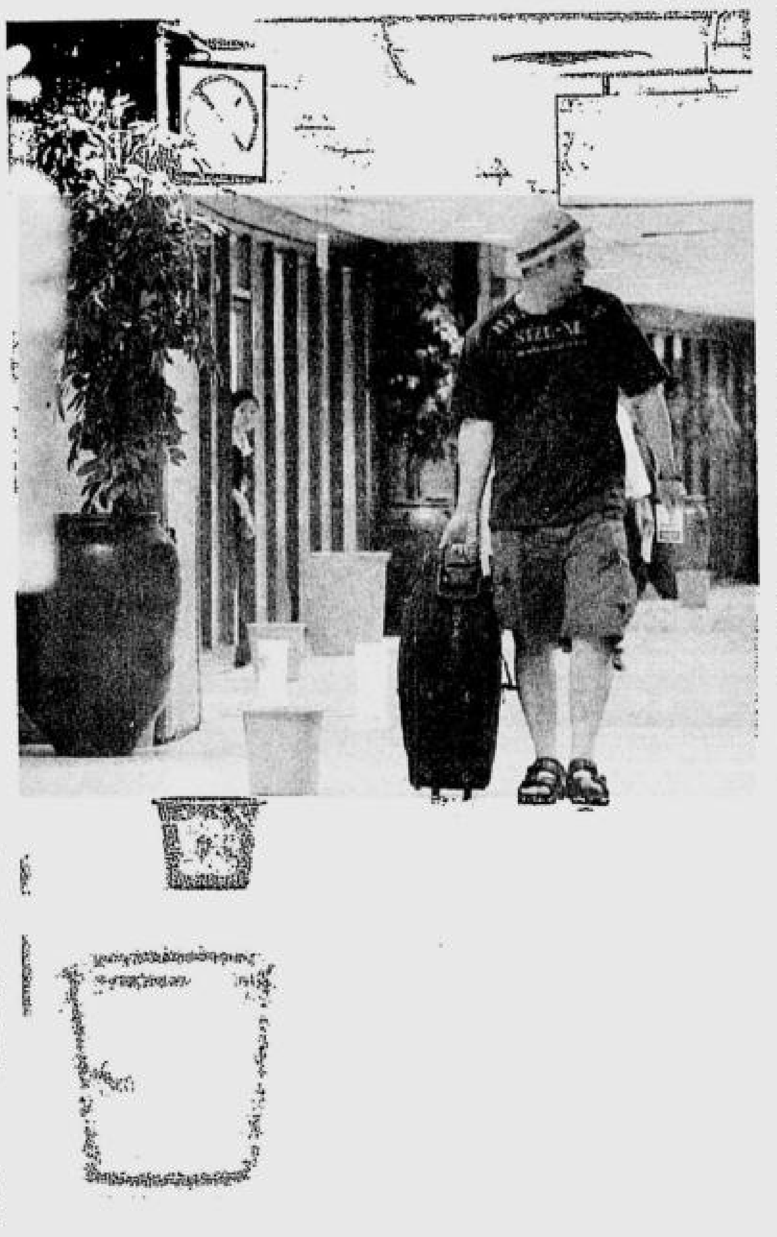
He said the situation in the Sto. Niño area along Commonwealth, where water rose over five feet on Tuesday, has improved even if the floods were not completely gone.

Reports from the MMDA metrobase show that as of 11 a.m. yesterday, the flood along the Sto. Niño area was only ankle-deep.

The most flooded stretch along Edsa was near the flyover in Ortigas, where floodwaters were knee-deep.

The floods along the areas of España-Dimasalang, R. Papa-J.P Rizal and Maria Clara in Manila were also knee-deep.

Waist-high waters were recorded along the Letre-Donsuya area in Northern Metro Manila, while the Catmon-Barangay Niyogan area was under knee-deep water (See related story at right).



**SLIPPERY WHEN WET**
**A tourist tugging his luggage does not seem to mind the colorful plastic buckets that line the hallway of the 4th level of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport. The buckets have been placed there to catch the rainwater dripping from the roof.** ROGER MARGALLO

## MMDA ON KATIPUNAN AVENUE PLAN

# 'We'll push through with it'

**By Leila Salaverria and Christine Avendaño**

WHILE a senator threatens to open an inquiry on the Metro Manila Development Authority's plan to cut down trees in Quezon City, officials of the agency have announced that they are going ahead with the removal of the islands and the trees on Katipunan Avenue to improve traffic flow in the area.

"No, (we will not stop the project)," MMDA General Manager Robert Nacianceno told the INQUIRER yesterday. "We have a deadline to follow, which is the opening of classes."

Nacianceno said that the MMDA is bent on opening up Katipunan Avenue and freeing it from traffic congestion by the time classes start next month.

Nacianceno said that with regard to the removal of trees with a balling machine, it is actually the MMDA who gives permission to those who want to do it. A permit from the DENR only has to be secured if a tree is going to be cut.

The MMDA's plan for Katipunan Avenue has caught the attention of opposition Sen. Vicente Sotto III, who is now pressing for a Senate inquiry into the agency's "questionable" activities, like the cutting down of trees in Libis, Quezon City, and the abuses sidewalk vendors allegedly went through in the hands of MMDA personnel.

Sotto said that he has evidence on both cases, including a video showing how some MMDA members were handling a female sidewalk vendor who refused to turn over to them the wares she was selling.

Sotto, citing his source, also claimed that MMDA members had cut down 21 trees at an impounding center in Libis.

When Sotto learned from his source that the MMDA also planned to remove trees on Katipunan, the senator warned the agency against doing so.

Sotto said that with these actions, the MMDA might violate environmental laws.

Sotto said that he would present the evidence next week when he delivers a privileged speech on the MMDA's activities.

The senator, who authored the law creating the MMDA and a pending bill proposing to abolish the agency, said it was time for the Senate to take a second look at the "mandate" of the MMDA.

The MMDA plan for Katipunan also met resistance from members of the Concerned Citizens Against Pollution (Cocap) and the Katipunan residents themselves.

They said the removal of the trees would deprive the area of fresh air and cause flooding.

Cocap founder Ester Perez de Tagle yesterday said the MMDA should consider other alternatives.

She said Cocap, representatives of Miriam College, Ateneo de Manila and several establishments on Katipunan met with Nacianceno and Environment Secretary Elisea Gozun on Tuesday afternoon to express their opposition to the plan.

"We want the islands there, we want the trees there," Perez de Tagle said.

## Lumban mayor declared a fugitive

THE WESTERN Police District yesterday declared Mayor Reynato Macalalag of Lumban, Laguna, a "fugitive from justice" and warned the public against coddling the murder suspect.

Macalalag is charged with the murder of Alberto Quiatzon, a political opponent, in 1995. The case is being heard by a Manila regional trial court, which issued an arrest warrant last month.

The WPD has conducted several operations to arrest Macalalag but all these have failed.

Yesterday, Crusade Against Violence president Carina Agarao personally went to the WPD to ask that the police speed up on their job to arrest the mayor.

"Storm or no storm, our crusade continues because justice cannot wait," Agarao said in a joint press conference with WPD director Chief Supt. Pedro Bulaong.

Agarao claimed that Macalalag is hiding in Metro Manila.

Quiatzon was shot in Lumban on Nov. 20, 1995. Before he died two days later, he named the mayor and his henchmen as the killers. *Jerome Aning and Margaux Ortiz*

## Camanava worst hit by floods

FLOODS swamped many areas in Metro Manila due to rains brought by typhoon Chedeng, but the worst hit was the Camanava (Caloocan, Malabon, Navotas, Valenzuela) area.

Valenzuela City bore the brunt, with 16 of the 32 barangays submerged in floodwaters, according to Bernie Bautista, chief of the city's social welfare and development office.

In Malabon, Mayor Amado Vicencio has mobilized all local agencies to respond to emergency situations in six affected baragays.

Meanwhile, the Maynilad Water Services Inc. yesterday warned residents in Valenzuela, Malabon and Quezon City about the possible overflowing of the La Mesa Dam.

In a statement issued yesterday, Maynilad said they might release water from the dam if the rains continue and the dam reaches the overflow limit.

In Manila, several areas remained flooded as heavy rains continued to batter the city.

The Manila Disaster Coordinating Council, headed by city administrator Ernesto Dionisio, said almost 700 families have been affected by waist-deep floods in Antipolo Street in Tondo and in Isla Puting Bato.

In Marikina, the rising waters of Tumana River have forced the city government to evacuate 24 families in barangay Malanday and Parang to higher grounds.

Reports from the local rescue team said Tumana River also threatens the low-lying densely populated barangays of Nangka and Concepcion.

In Mandaluyong City, Owen Cadirao, 31, of Narra Street, Cembo, Makati City, was killed when he lost control of the Mercedes Benz van he was driving late Tuesday night due to heavy rains. *Reports from Tina Santos, Jerome Aning, Margaux Ortiz and Nelson Flores*

**CAPTIVATING**
**The winner of the Miss Makati pageant, Charij Manlapaz (left), and the winner of the Miss Tourism title, Christine Marie Co, flash their pearly whites during the coronation night on Tuesday at the Mandarin Hotel in Makati City.** JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

## Ebdane slams Maganto

**By Christian V. Esguerra**

WHO'S coddling who?

An incensed Philippine National Police Chief Hermogenes Ebdane has finally broken his silence and slammed Chief Supt. Romeo Maganto for accusing the PNP hierarchy of coddling Supt. Rafael Cardeño, the alleged brains behind the Baron Cervantes murder.

"We can't accept his statement that we're protecting Cardeño," Ebdane said at yesterday's Ciudad Fernandina forum in San Juan.

Ebdane criticized Maganto for supposedly publicizing his high-profile hunt for Cardeño, founder of the Young Officers' Union, even without producing substantial results.

Maganto's operations, Ebdane said, appeared real only in newspaper reports.

Maganto refused to comment on Ebdane's statement, saying he would just do his job and bring justice to the Cervantes family.

He made the headlines early this month when his team stormed Cardeño's alleged safe house in Famy, Laguna. Team leader Almario Jimenez was shot dead by Cardeño's alleged henchman Benjamin Bagolbagol who was also killed in the incident.

## LATE SPORTS

### *San Mig downs TNT*

**GAMES TOMORROW**
(*Araneta Coliseum*)
5:00 p.m.—All-Star side events
7:30 p.m.—Toyota vs Crispa

**By June Navarro**

SAN Miguel Beer repulsed Talk N Text, 106-102, in overtime to cap a fruitful elimination round campaign last night in the Samsung-PBA All Filipino Cup at the Philsports Arena.

The Beermen thus stretched their winning streak to seven and ended the elims with a 12-6 slate that cemented their claim of the lead in Group A.

Groping for form inside the shaded area due to the suspension of slotman Dorian Peña, the Beermen went to Nic Belasco instead as the 6-foot-7 power forward drilled in five of his team's 11 points in the extra period that snuffed the life out of the Phone Pals.

Peña was again suspended after testing positive for a banned substance in a random drug test supervised recently by the league.

The Phone Pals, who also lost Long David and Noli Locsin (also suspended for drug use), finished their elimination stint with a 10-7.

Raffy Reavis' alley-oop dunk in the final 1.2 seconds carried Coca-Cola to an 89-87 win over FedEx in the second game. The Tigers closed out their elimination campaign at 11-7 while the Express wound up at 10-8.

SAN MIGUEL 106—Belasco 27, Victoria 18, Ildefonso 15, Hontiveros 14, Gahol 12, Racela 10, Legaspi 4, Mente 4, Gamboa 2.

TALK N TEXT 102—Taulava 31, Pablo 26, Alapag 12, Fran 9, Carey 7, Telan 7, Villa 4, Ravena 4, Manalo 2.

## METROBRIEFS

### Cop killed in blast

MANILA policeman PO2 Joseph Abraham, 37, of the Western Police District's tactical operations center died when the grenade he found outside his *sari-sari* store in Tondo exploded while he was wrapping it with adhesive tape on Tuesday night. He had planned to turn it over to the bomb disposal unit. Abraham was on his way to work when he found the grenade at about 8 p.m., according to investigator SPO2 Danilo Vidad. *Jerome Aning*

### Caught in a clothesline

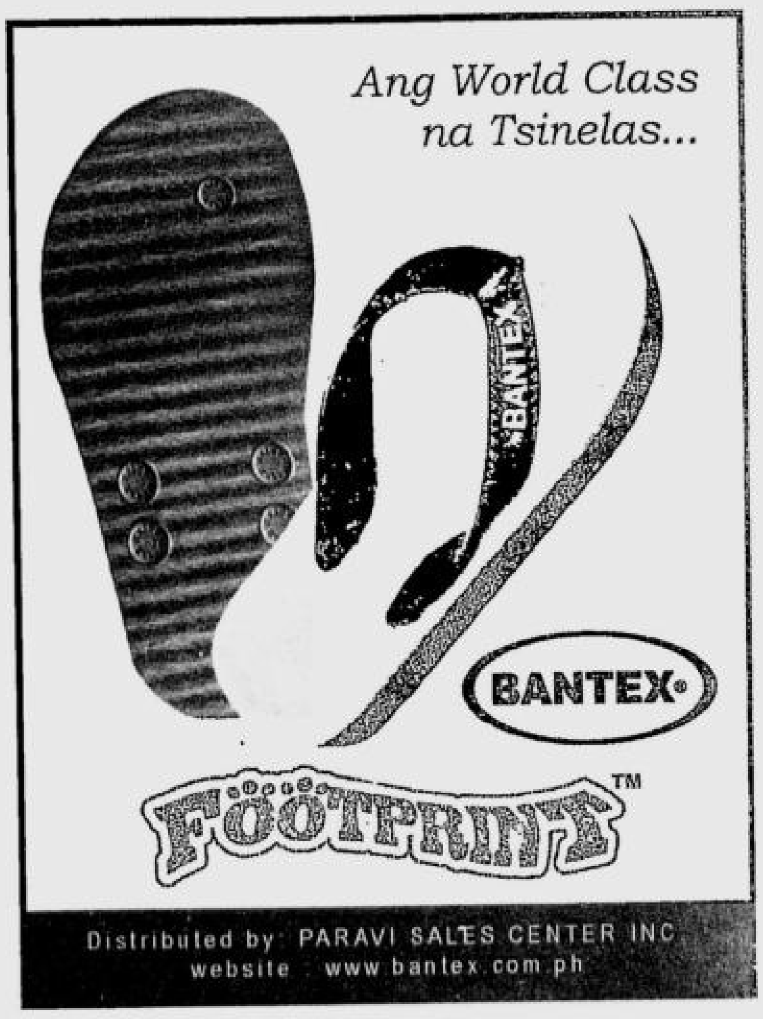
A TEENAGE boy jumped out of the window of the two-story house of Ed de Leon in Barangay Tanong, Marikina after he was caught robbing the owner's room at 1:30 a.m. yesterday. But the minor failed to elude arrest when his feet got caught in a clothesline and hurt himself. Police found De Leon's wallet on the suspect who had just been bailed out of jail last Tuesday for robbery. *Nelson Flores*

### Robbed by neighbor

SISTERS Erlinda Tolosa, 42, a businesswoman, and Fatima Tolosa, 25, an accountant, both of Grace Park, Caloocan, allegedly lost about P100,000 in cash and valuables to Amelita Marao, 27, on Sunday. The sisters yesterday complained to police that Marao had taken their cash and jewelry last Sunday while they were out and only their 13-year-old nephew was left in their house. They claimed that Marao had taken advantage of the boy, telling him that his aunts had wanted him to get their cash and jewelry. They also claimed Marao threatened to hurt the boy. *Jerome Aning and Margaux Ortiz*

### Dead on a tree

MARIKINA City police are seeking the public's help in identifying a man who was found dead and hanging by the neck from a tree along P. Paterno Street, Barangay Parang by passersby at 2:30 a.m. yesterday. Police said the body had no injuries that would suggest foul play or any identifying marks. No suicide note was found on the victim. Anyone with information on the victim may contact SPO2 Arnel Manuel at the Marikina City police station headquarters or at tel. no. 6461625. *Nelson Flores*



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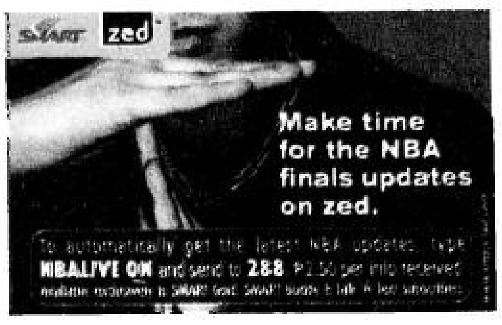
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# SPORTS

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*Assistant Editor* **Edwin M. Villanueva**

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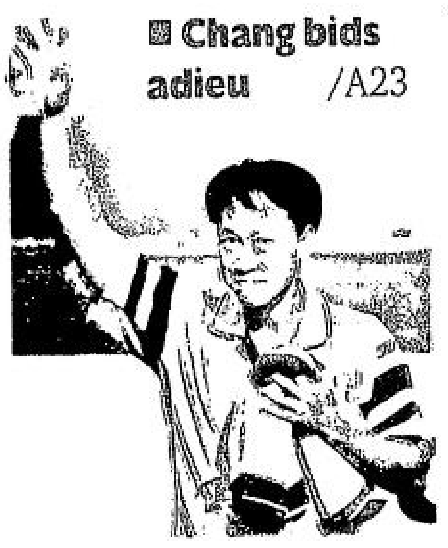

■ Chang bids adieu /A23

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■ Devils take opener /A23

# 6 more PBA drug cheats fall

**By June Navarro**

**THERE are more Philippine Basketball Association players getting high on drugs.**

Already reeling from its discovery of five drug offenders, the PBA announced yesterday that six more players had failed the ongoing mandatory drug testing, among them stalwarts Davonn Harp of Batang Red Bull and Jun Limpot of Barangay Ginebra.

Commissioner Noli Eala identified the other drug delinquents as Long David and Noli Locsin of Talk N Text, Ryan Bernardo of FedEx and San Miguel Beer's Dorian Peña, who was earlier suspended for two games before the start of the season along with Asi Taulava of Talk N Text for marijuana use.

"It is with a pinch of sadness that I have to make this decision. It's painful but I think the league will benefit in the long term from policies like this," said Eala.

Except for Peña, the five were automatically slapped with indefinite suspensions, the same penalty imposed earlier on Jimwell Torion of Red Bull, Norman Gonzales of Talk N Text and Ginebra's Alex Crisano, and will be required to undergo a six-month rehabilitation before the league can re-evaluate their cases in September at the latest.

Earlier, an official of the Philippine National Police Crime Laboratory (PNPCL) said five of 11 PBA players whose urine samples were submitted to the PNPCL for confirmatory tests were found positive for use of banned substance.

Chief Insp. Julita de Villa, crime laboratory chemist, said four tested positive for use of methamphetamine, a precursor of shabu, while another was found positive for use of marijuana.

De Villa, however, could not identify the players who failed the test, noting that the samples were coded.

The 11 players tested positive for use of banned substance during the initial test conducted by the DOH. Their urine samples were later forwarded to the PNP crime laboratory for confirmatory tests.

Reached by the INQUIRER on the phone, Limpot said:

"I really didn't know what happen out there. As far as I'm concerned I didn't use any of those stuff. I haven't even seen what a grain of shabu looks like in my entire life."

The league's mandatory testing which started early this month also caught three team utility men, whose identities Eala opted not to disclose. The three were removed from their teams and barred from any official PBA activity.

Eala announced the shocking news to the media in the presence of PBA board vice chair Buddy Encarnado of Sta. Lucia Realty, PBA technical director Perry Martinez, PBA physician Ben Salud, PNP Crime Laboratory representative Capt. Morphy Dumlao and DOH representative Dr. Soccoro Yanes.

*With a report from TJ Burgonio*

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**PBL GAMES TODAY** *(Pasay Sports Center)*
2 p.m.—Montaña vs John-O
4 p.m.—Hapee vs Viva

# 'Chedeng' postpones golf tourneys

TYPHOON Chedeng has literally turned into a big hazard for the local golf scene.

The second edition of the Hundred Presidents Invitational of the Inquirer Golf Monthly and three other major golf events scheduled this week have all been postponed due to the inclement weather brought about by Chedeng.

Originally slated at the Club Intramuros tomorrow, the Hundred Presidents was to feature company bigwigs in a Night Golf competition. Philippine Daily Inquirer president Sandy Prieto said that the new date will be announced soon.

Also affected by the heavy rains brought by Chedeng are the Southwoods Invitational, the member-guest event of Manila Southwoods; the Smart Invitational at Sta. Elena and the Airlift Asia Classic match play, the final leg of the Samsung Jungolf

CHEDENG/ A22

# *Row over SEAG criteria looms*

**By Marc Anthony Reyes**

THE PHILIPPINE Sports Commission and the Philippine Olympic Committee are on a collision course over the criteria for selecting athletes to the Southeast Asian Games in Vietnam on Dec. 5-13.

This became apparent after PSC chair Eric Buhain stood firm on his stand to fund only those who passed the criteria of a bronze medal finish in the 2002 Asian Games or a silver in the 2001 SEA Games.

But the POC general assembly also batted yesterday for the inclusion of athletes who failed to meet the PSC criteria but have shown potential to win gold medals in the SEAG set in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh.

"They (PSC officials) must also consider that these athletes have prepared long and hard for the SEA Games," POC vice president Hontiveros told the INQUIRER. "It is not their fault that their respective sports are not measured by the criteria we have set."

"I hope that we can work things out," added Hontiveros, who is also chief of the POC screening committee for the SEAG.

The performances of athletes of subjective sports like gymnastics, taekwondo or diving can't be measured because their sports are decided by a set of judges.

"It's okay if they have already competed abroad and won medals to meet the criteria but what about those who haven't got international exposures," said Hontiveros.

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# Mavericks stay alive

**SAN ANTONIO—Michael Finley, Nick Van Exel, Steve Nash and the Dallas Mavericks wouldn't let San Antonio clinch a spot in the NBA Finals.**

On a night that shaped up as the final night of basketball until the championship round begins June 4, the Mavericks fell behind by 19 points but staged second half comeback as Dallas defeated the San Antonio Spurs 103-91 Tuesday.

"I saw blue shirts on the floor, I saw blue shirts ripping rebounds from guys in white shirts. They wanted it more and they deserved it," Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said.

The Mavericks cut San Antonio's lead to 3-2 in the best-of-seven series, with Game 6 Thursday night (Friday morning in Manila) in Dallas.

Finley scored 31 points and got huge help in the fourth quarter from Van Exel and Nash –the two starting point guards in the small-ball lineup coach Don Nelson was forced to use as Dirk Nowitzki (knee injury) sat out his second straight game.

Van Exel finished with 21 points while Nash had 14.

The Mavericks used a 14-2 run to take a 101-88 lead with 1:42 left, prompting San Antonio to call a timeout and Bruce Bowen to yell "Shut up!" three times at a heckler sitting behind the bench who was telling the Spurs how terrible they were.

Dallas outscored San Antonio 29-10 in the fourth quarter as the Spurs missed their first eight shots, 11 of 12 and 14 of 17 overall.

Dallas, which went 49-for-50 from the line in its Game 1 victory, went 23-for-23 at the foul line in Game 5 and shot 56 percent from the field in the second half.

San Antonio missed 14 of 38 foul shots, with Tim Duncan missing seven all by himself.

"The goal is still to get to four, and we're up 3-2," Duncan said. *AP*

YESTERDAY'S thrilling Game Five of the San Antonio Spurs-Dallas Mavericks NBA Western Conference Finals will be replayed today (May 29) at 7 p.m. on IBC-13. Also to be shown on Channel 29 (Skycable/Homecable)—Game Two of the Spurs-Los Angeles Lakers series at 8 a.m. and Game Seven of the Dallas-Portland series at 10 p.m.

**NASH** (right) tries to get past Tony Parker. AFP

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SPORTS TV

**Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat**

**BASKETBALL:** Mavs vs Spurs, Game 5 (May 28); 7 p.m.; IBC 13 - Get another look at how Dallas lived to fight another day.

**GOLF:** LPGA Asahi Ryokukon International Championship; 2 p.m.; ESPN - Second round goes underway from South Carolina.

## 'Chedeng'. . .

From page A21

Tour at the Riviera.

A number of other events like the Chi Ro Cup of the Miriam College at Eagle Ridge also tomorrow has been postponed for a later date. Expected to be also affected unless there is a marked improvement in the weather in the coming days is the Federation League matches. *Jong Arcano*

# NBA's Barangay Ginebra

**SPECTATOR**

*Al S. Mendoza*

IT can be done. That was what Dallas proved yesterday when it upset San Antonio, 103-91.

The small beating the big.

The weak upending the strong.

The underdog humbling the overdog.

It was tiny Vietnam defeating superpower United States once more in the modern-day tragedy that was the Vietnam War.

So puzzling was the Mavericks victory that bewildered basketball scientists rushed to their labs to peek into their microscopes looking for microbes, virus if you will, to explain the latest NBA phenomenon.

What is this, a new scare much like the SARS?

And to think that the Mavs were not even supposed to put up a decent fight yesterday. How could they, when their No. 1 player, Dirk Nowitzki, was as helpless "as a kitten up a tree," as harmless as the brain-eating Manero locked up in jail?

With a wounded knee, all Nowitzki did yesterday was photocopy his Game Five performance: Cheer from the bench. I don't know if that helped the Mavs any, but, from all indications, it did. It was like a Willis Reed reenactment of sorts during that famed New York era of the '70s, when the Knicks dedicated a game to their injured teammate, Reed.

Or a Kareem Abdul Jabbar flashback in which the 7-foot-2 center had to sit out a championship match due to an injury and surrender the slot to Magic Johnson. Magic essayed Kareem's role to the hilt to key Los Angeles' glorious reign in the '80s.

The Mavs played like they were dedicating the game to Nowitzki yesterday. Their patented courage resurfaced. If the PBA has a Barangay Ginebra, the league's never-say-die team, its NBA counterpart is none other than Dallas.

"We were aggressive, and that was the key," said Dallas' highest pointer Michael Finley, who fired 31 points, and was 12-of-12 from the line.

Finley and the rest of the Mavs were all over the place, shooting threes when they needed them most, tossing in free throws error-free as they went 21-of-21 from the stripe.

In contrast, the Spurs were a pathetic sight coming home, sinking just three field goals in the last quarter while doing only 23-of-37 from the line all game long as they blew a 17-point bubble with a mere 10-point production to the Mavs 29 points in that stretch. As usual, Dallas' biggest heroes alongside Finley were Nick Van Exel with 21 points and the indefatigable, fadeaway artist Steve Nash with 14 points.

Thus, from 3-1, Dallas cut San Antonio's lead to 3-2 in their war for the Western Conference title.

So, was there a special potion that Dallas concocted in defeating San Antonio and bringing the playoffs to Dallas for a Game 6?

Nothing really. The Dallas system beat San Antonio, period.

The system works both ways.

With Nowitzki around, ball movement for the Mavs was almost always a blur. And that's because of Nash, whose quickness is overshadowed only by the swiftness of his shots ripping the nets. With Nowitzki not around, it was the same pattern.

It worked yesterday. It's going to work again in Dallas tomorrow--that is , if Spurs coach Gregg Popovich does not make the necessary adjustments. The trouble with Popovich is, he easily allows himself to get overwhelmed by Mavs coach Don Nelson, especially during crunchtime.

I'm not surprised, though. Popovich used to be the assistant of Nelson when Nelson coached the Golden State Warriors. Popovich has got to lick the teacher-student syndrome or he will end up holding the empty bag in the end.

Nowitzki or no Nowitzki.

***

*FASTBREAK.* What is preventing our senators from signing the excise tax law covering our vehicles' new scheme of pricing based on value? Sen. Ralph Recto's bill will redound to the benefit of motorsports in particular and the automotive industry in general. The Lower House has already approved it, what's delaying the Senate from following suit? On June 6, the Senate will go on recess. Heard only Sen. Serge Osmena is left unconvinced of the merits of Recto's bill. What gives?

# 5 PAF boxers enter q'finals

**By Dennis U. Eroa**

PUERTO PRINCESA, Palawan—Traditional powerhouse Air Force sent five boxers to the quarterfinals of the 2003 National boxing Open Tuesday night at the Puerto Princesa Coliseum here.

Airmen Dick Varron dominated Cebu City's Robert Allanic in the flyweight division, bantamweight Wilbert Eballes downed Jerope Mercado of the Philippine Navy and lightwelterweight Neil Postolero repulsed Jeric Jacob of Camarines Norte to join teammates Decebrix Ambray (featherweight), and middleweight Maryjoy Tagbe in the quarterfinals.

Focus, however, will be on the star-studded Baguio City women's boxing team spearheaded by lightflyweight Alice Kate Aparri, bronze medalist in last year's Asian women's boxing championship in Bangkok, who will be gunning for the final against Lea Antonio of Palawan today.

The 18-year-old Aparri, a Hotel and Restaurant Management major at the University of Baguio, is one of four national boxers in Baguio's seven-woman team.

# Gorres ready for defense vs Rodrigo

CEBU CITY—Philippine flyweight champion Z "The Dream" Gorres stakes his 112-lb crown against challenger Edgar Rodrigo this Sunday, June 1, at the Makati Coliseum.

The southpaw Gorres, handled by Cebu sportsman Tony Aldeguer and managed by lawyer-sportsman Rudy Salud, is unbeaten in 13 fights with seven knockouts.

Rodrigo, also a lefty, has a 9-3-4 win-loss-draw card with 4 KOs.

"I'm ready for Rodrigo," Gorres told the INQUIRER. *Salven Lagumbay*

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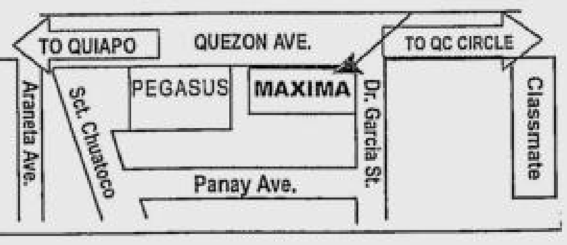

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## SPORTSWATCH

### Devils take opener

EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey—Jeff Friesen scored twice against his former teammates as New Jersey beat Anaheim 2-0 to take the opening game of the National Hockey League's Stanley Cup finals. Devils' netminder Martin Brodeur made just 16 saves to register his 18th career playoff shutout. Friesen scored at 1:45 of the second period after both teams went scoreless in the first. Grant Marshall, with his fifth goal of the playoffs, and Friesen, into an empty net, scored the other goals. *AFP*

### Rockies stop Dodgers

DENVER—The Colorado Rockies quickly put an end to the Los Angeles Dodgers' hopes of extending a 10-game winning streak, scoring five times in the opening inning of a 7-3 victory in National League action on Tuesday. Larry Walker's triple off Kazuhisa Ishii (4-2) plated two of the five first-inning runs. Walker later drove in two more runs with a bases-loaded single. *Reuters*

### Teener stuns Tamayo

TEENAGER Mary Antoinette Rivero of St. Paul's Pasig shocked Busan Asian Games veteran Kalindi Tamayo of UST, 5-3, and snatched the feather/light gold medal in the recent Petron All-Women's taekwondo championships at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium. The 5-foot-7, 14-year-old Rivero surged to a 3-1 lead after the first round and then held Tamayo to a 2-2 tie in the second to seal the victory. Finweight Eunice Alora, fly Mary Diorlyn Papelera, bantam Sabrina Simbulan and welter/heavy Mary Ann Briones emerged as the other gold medalists.

### Cage clinic at RMSC

THE NATIONWIDE search for the tallest athletic Filipino youngsters for the national team to the SEABA Junior Championships 2004 dubbed "Burlington Tuklas Taas" will be held June 2 to 7, from 6-8 p.m., at the Rizal Memorial Sports Coliseum. It will be the last part of the youth program organized by Total Events and Athlete Management (Team) Inc. On May 29 and 30, the special project of the Basketball Association of the Philippines (BAP) and Burlington will be in Davao City and on May 30-31 at the Zamboanga City Coliseum. For inquiries, call TeamInc. at 894-3576 or 894-3014.

### 5-K fun run slated

THE MANDARIN Oriental Manila will hold the "Run for Fitness, Run for Fun," a 5-kilometer fun run, on June 8. An annual event launched by Mandarin Oriental Health Club six years ago, the fun run complements the hotel's on-going wellness programs conducted at the Pure Yoga studio and the Oriental Spare. Supported by Fi.t Inc (distributors of Star Trac, Nautilus, Bowflex and Schwinn), West Leisure N Fitness Equipment, Unilever, Pharmaton, Base 6 Nutrition and Red Bull, the race starts at 6 a.m. sharp. For more details, 750-8888 loc. 2330.

### York, Konica prevail

YORK-LA Gear and Konica-Memory Magic posted easy wins over their respective rivals to share the lead in the 2003 Burlington-Philippine Retailers Association (PRA) Friendship Basketball Tournament recently at the Tanduay gym in Quiapo, Manila. York-LA Gear trounced erstwhile co-leader GNC, 80-63, while Konica-Memory Magic whipped Montanara, 83-67, to extend their winning streak to four games in this 10-team, weekend-only tournament organized by Total Events and Athlete Management (Team) in cooperation with Burlington, LA Gear, Sportshouse, Accel, Puma and Bally socks and Fab bottled by John Springs. Commissioner Eusebio "Boy" Ong said the tournament will resume on Sunday.

### SSC coach advances

SUBIC—San Sebastian coach Frederick Morgan and Cebuano standout Ricardo Lagac Jr. struggled to prevail Wednesday night and lead the first-round winners in the second Coca-Cola National Open Tennis Championships at the Subic International Sports and Tennis Center here. The 14th-ranked Morgan downed 2002 UAAP MVP Gabby Remigio, 6-4, 7-6 (5), to forge a second-round meeting with Michael Basco, who survived Francis Factura, 6-2, 6-7 (3), 7-5. The 15th seeded Lagac outclassed RP Junior Davis Cup team member and San Beda player Nestor Celestino Jr., 7-6 (3), 6-7 (6), 6-3.

### 4-cock meet today

MANDALUYONG Coliseum's "Abu 4-Cock Derby" will push through as scheduled today. The first of more than 80 fights will start at 4 p.m. Sagupaan Hammer, Sagupaan Mite Free, Sagupaan B-50 Forten and Washout Shampoo from Lakpue Drug are the sponsors. Popular Ucap *Illamador* Abu Centeno will host this derby which has a guaranteed prize of P400,000. For inquiries, please call 531-4003, 531-4005, 534-4110 and 535-2341.

### Chessfest Saturday

THE THIRD leg of the 2003 Philippine Executive Active Chess Express or Peace 2003 gets going at 1 p.m. on Saturday (May 31) at the Land Bank Plaza in Malate. Defending champion Jenny Mayor and Adler Enriquez are on top of the standings in their respective sections. Those who want to join the meet may contact the organizing Active Chess Center of Asia (Acca) at 892-8759.

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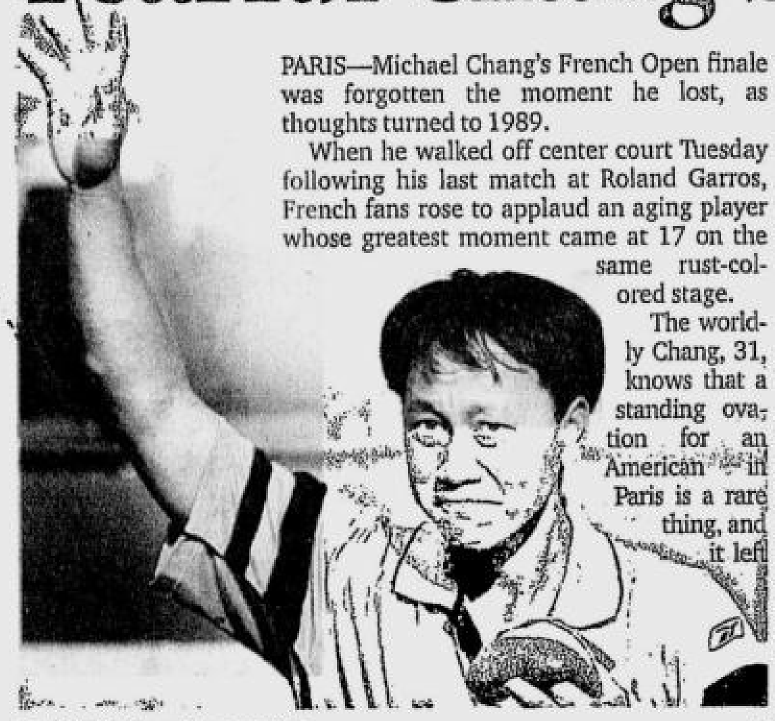
Race 5--1. Salt Lake City 2. Native Prince 3. Well Noted 4. Inner Silence
Race 6--1. Astronaut 2. Golden Prince 3. Main Street
Race 7--1. Speed Charm 2. Remarkable 3. Lady Victoria 4. Close Account
Race 8--1. Batang Cabu 2. May's Magic 3. Classic Star
Race 9--1. Dynamite Jack 2. Detonator 3. Tanging Ikaw 4. Gold Marlin

# Tearful Chang bids adieu


CHANG: Standing ovation. AP

PARIS—Michael Chang's French Open finale was forgotten the moment he lost, as thoughts turned to 1989.

When he walked off center court Tuesday following his last match at Roland Garros, French fans rose to applaud an aging player whose greatest moment came at 17 on the same rust-colored stage.

The worldly Chang, 31, knows that a standing ovation for an American in Paris is a rare thing, and it left him fighting back tears.

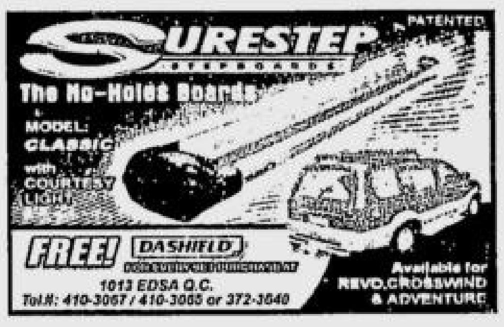
Chang's game has slipped so badly that he was beaten 7-5, 6-1, 6-1 by an opponent with a seven-match losing streak, fellow thirtysomething Fabrice Santoro.

Chang first wept in '89, when he mounted a remarkable run to his only Grand Slam title. Cramps reduced him to serving underhand in the round of 16, but he still managed to beat Ivan Lendl. In the final he upset Stefan Edberg to become the youngest men's Grand Slam champion.

Meanwhile, Andy Roddick was upset by Sargis Sargsian, 6-7, 6-1, 6-2, 6-4, and three-time French Open winner Monica Seles lost in the opening round, to Nadia Petrova, 6-4, 6-0, for the first time in 40 major events.

Defending champion Albert Costa needed the biggest comeback of his long career to avoid a huge upset as he rallied to beat Sergio Roitman 6-7 (3), 2-6, 7-5, 6-2, 6-2.

No. 2-seeded Kim Clijsters, No. 3 Venus Williams, No. 6 Lindsay Davenport and No. 7 Jennifer Capriati advanced in straight sets. *AP*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| BIÑAN ☎ (049)511.7268 | ICE KENDI MR.ROXY | NO ENTRANCE FEE |
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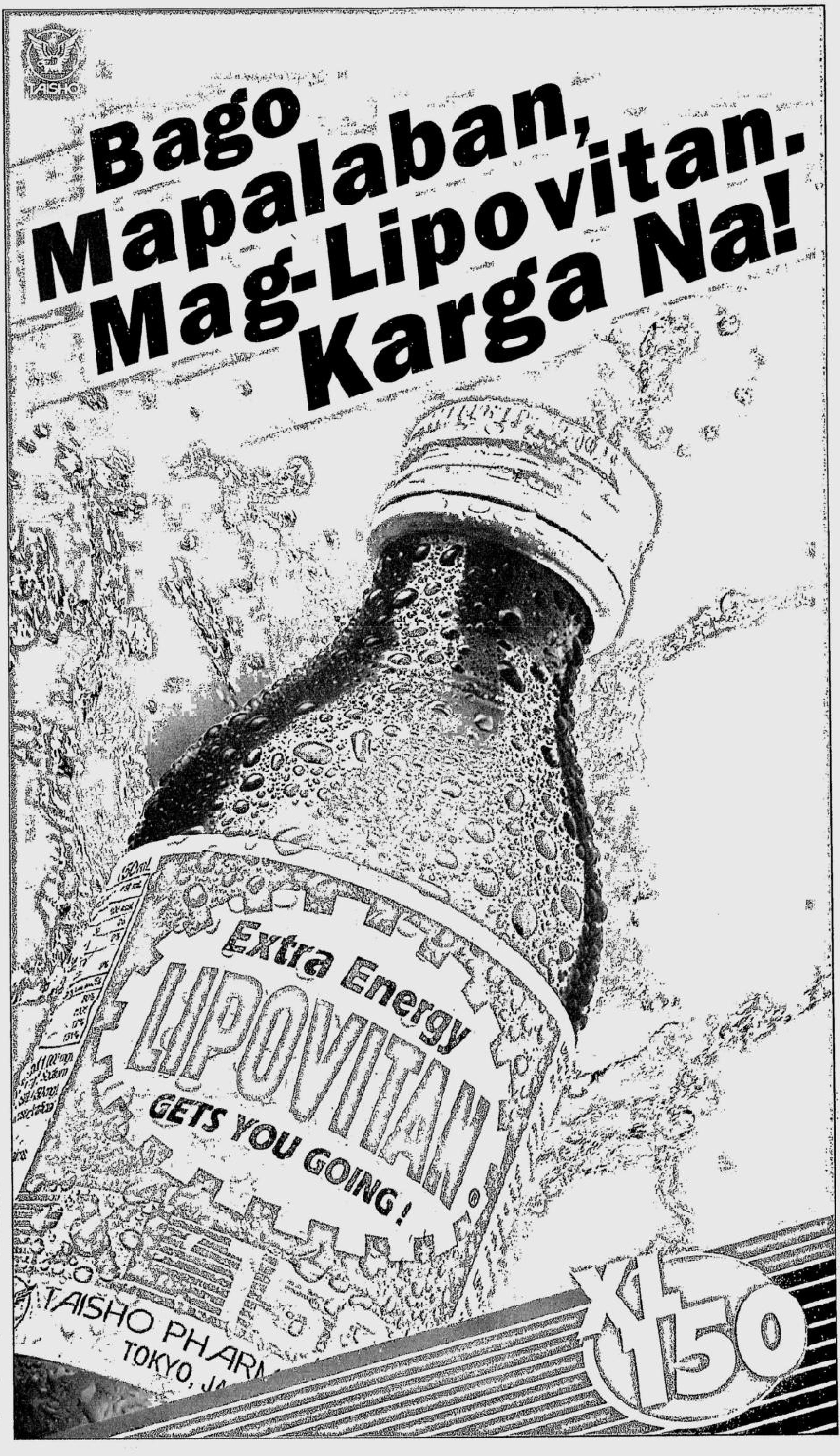
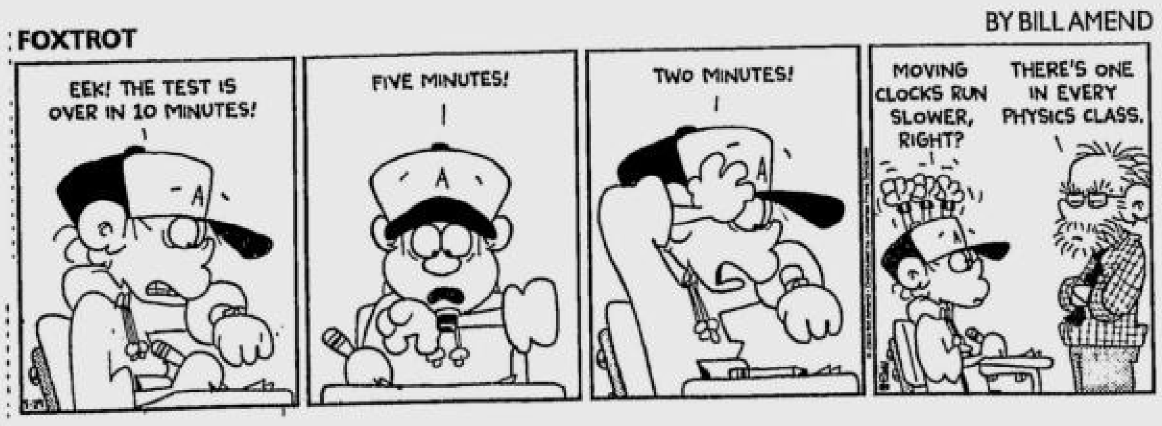
| TOMAS MORATO ☎ 371.1473 | 0 2 7 | NO ENTRANCE FEE |

MAY 29 THURSDAY 422-9877



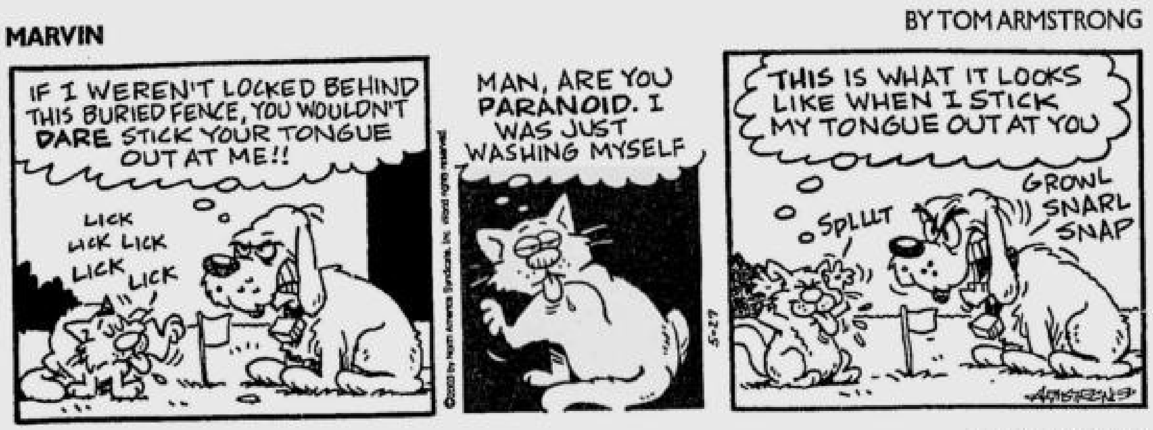
## FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


EEK! THE TEST IS OVER IN 10 MINUTES!
FIVE MINUTES!
TWO MINUTES!
MOVING CLOCKS RUN SLOWER, RIGHT?
THERE'S ONE IN EVERY PHYSICS CLASS.

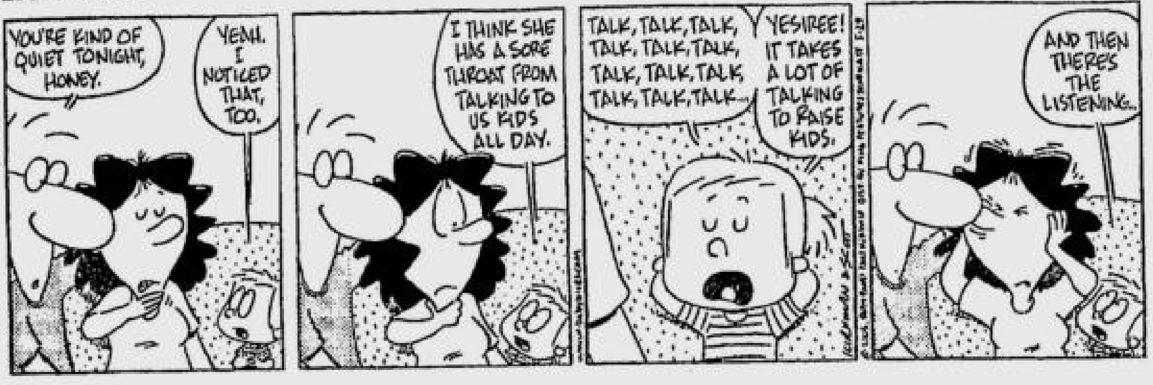
## MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


IF I WEREN'T LOCKED BEHIND THIS BURIED FENCE, YOU WOULDN'T DARE STICK YOUR TONGUE OUT AT ME!!
LICK LICK LICK LICK LICK
MAN, ARE YOU PARANOID. I WAS JUST WASHING MYSELF
THIS IS WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE WHEN I STICK MY TONGUE OUT AT YOU
SPLLLT
GROWL SNARL SNAP

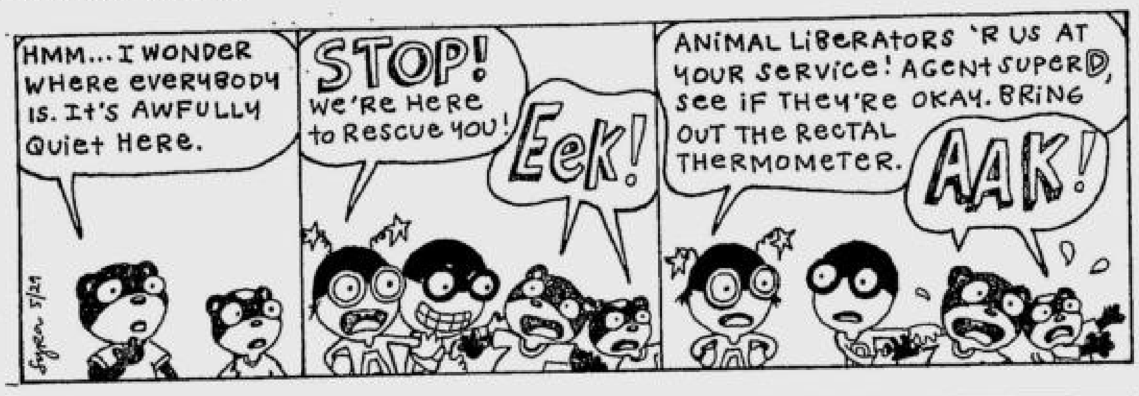
## BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


YOU'RE KIND OF QUIET TONIGHT, HONEY.
YEAH. I NOTICED THAT, TOO.
I THINK SHE HAS A SORE THROAT FROM TALKING TO US KIDS ALL DAY.
TALK, TALK, TALK, TALK, TALK, TALK, TALK, TALK, TALK, TALK, TALK, TALK...
YESIREE! IT TAKES A LOT OF TALKING TO RAISE KIDS.
AND THEN THERE'S THE LISTENING...

## ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


HMM... I WONDER WHERE EVERYBODY IS. IT'S AWFULLY QUIET HERE.
STOP! WE'RE HERE TO RESCUE YOU!
EEK!
ANIMAL LIBERATORS 'R US AT YOUR SERVICE! AGENT SUPER D, SEE IF THEY'RE OKAY. BRING OUT THE RECTAL THERMOMETER.
AAK!

## HOROSCOPE

### BY FRANCIS DRAKE

**YOU BORN TODAY:** You are versatile and verbally expressive. You have a wide range of interests. Above all, you are protective. Humanitarian by nature, you want to improve the lives of those around you. You are a quick thinker and a fast study. You adore trivia and information. Exciting choices present themselves to you this year. Choose wisely.
**Birthdate of:** Annette Bening, actress; John F. Kennedy, 35th US president; Rupert Everett, actor.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Avoid impulse buying today. You might feel you simply have to have something—but don't do it. Give yourself a chance to sleep on the matter.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Avoid messy conflicts with bosses, parents and the police. Do not let your emotions trigger your aggression. Think about things; don't just react.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You might feel confused because clever arguments lead you down a path that you don't want to take. Trust your own thinking and your own mind. (You know you're smart.)

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Don't let a friend try to talk you into business or financial deals today. Similarly, don't try to coerce a friend into joining you in a similar adventure. Chill out.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You might feel caught between your partner (or close friend) and your boss. People are quite pushy today. Although it's not your style, try to stay in the background.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Matters connected with teaching, publishing, travel and the law could trigger a problem today. The solution is simple: Do not act. Do nothing today; wait until tomorrow.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Don't try to get money from others to have a good time. It won't work. This is also a poor day to shop for items for children or to negotiate on their behalf.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You'll need extra patience dealing with family members and partners today. Don't get caught in a situation where you think you have to win. You don't have to win. (But don't lose your peace of mind.)

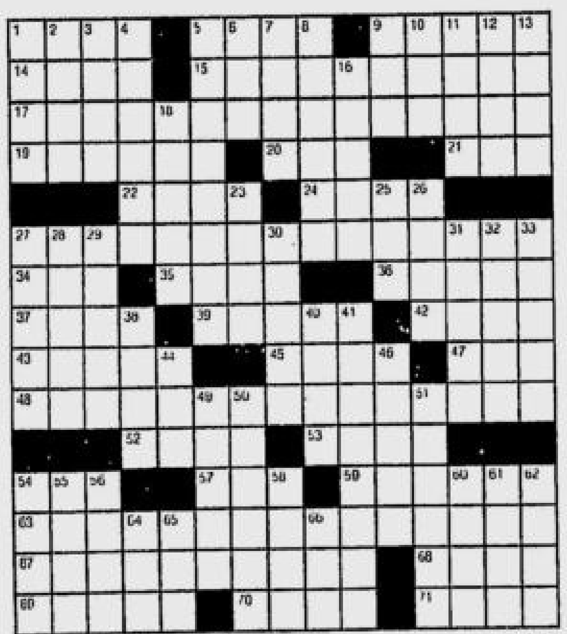
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Siblings, relatives and members of the public might try to talk you into something today. Resist a hard sales pitch. This is a poor day to spend money anyhow.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Children or the promise of fun times might tempt you to spend money today. Put your wallet back in your pocket. This is a poor day to part with your cash.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Don't be pushy about trying to get your way at home. Think about what your objective is and how you can best reach it.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Pay no attention to feelings of self-doubt that linger in the back of your mind. They're gone by tomorrow.

## DAILY CROSSWORD



By Bruce Venske and Stella Daily 5/29/03
Madison, WI

**ACROSS**
1 Set out to lose
5 CCCP, to us
9 Speeder catcher
14 Flaming Gorge state
15 Make a citizen
17 Start of financial advice
19 Hermosillo, Mexico's state
20 "Annabel Lee" poet
21 VCRs' go-withs
22 Yow, it's cold in here!
24 E.T. vehicles
27 Part 2 of financial advice
34 Drink like a dog
35 Verne captain
36 Invalidate
37 __ go bragh!
39 Not the brightest bulb in the box
42 Thin coin
43 Petal oil
45 Mike's "Wayne's World" co-star
47 Tic-toe tie
48 Part 3 of financial advice
52 Actress Thompson
53 "My Friend __"
54 Pompous sort
57 RRs on trestles
59 Fumes and mists
63 End of financial advice
67 Matter-of-fact type of person
68 Bridle part
69 Pacific Island group
70 "Pursuit of the Graf __"
71 Inactive

**DOWN**
1 Names
2 Me also
3 Pull down
4 Pulsates
5 Room temperature
6 Neill or Nunn
7 Wait a minute!
8 Expire
9 Bolger or Romano
10 TV E.T.
11 Soil
12 Black Sea arm
13 Radiation units
16 Coral colonies
18 Hatch of Utah
23 Frozen fog
25 South American tuber
26 Hourglass filler
27 Skirt's fold
28 Third rock
29 Malice
30 Meteorological device
31 Amalgamate
32 See 65D
33 Make a choice
38 Rejections
40 Rani's wrap
41 Devitalize
44 Cell substance letters
46 Chopper
49 Watery swelling
50 Male servants
51 Ancient papers
54 Dada collection, maybe
55 Blood fluids
56 Junk e-mail
58 Cut
60 Was in the red
61 Train track
62 "Auld Lang __"
64 In the past
65 With 32-Down, "Goomba Boomba" singer
66 Half an African fly?

**Wednesday's Puzzle Solved**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| T | E | E | T | H | ■ | S | L | I | D | ■ | C | H | I | P |
| I | G | L | O | O | ■ | P | A | R | E | ■ | R | I | S | E |
| M | A | K | E | T | R | A | C | K | S | ■ | A | G | E | E |
| E | D | S | ■ | S | O | R | E | ■ | T | E | T | H | E | R |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | P | E | A | K | ■ | F | I | L | E | T | ■ | ■ |
| C | A | F | T | A | N | ■ | P | A | N | O | R | A | M | A |
| A | F | L | A | T | ■ | S | E | V | E | N | ■ | I | O | N |
| B | O | Y | S | ■ | B | E | A | R | D | ■ | P | L | U | G |
| L | O | T | ■ | D | R | D | R | E | ■ | P | O | I | S | E |
| E | T | H | E | R | E | A | L | ■ | S | I | S | T | E | R |
| ■ | ■ | E | V | I | A | N | ■ | R | I | O | T | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| A | C | C | E | P | T | ■ | S | I | G | N | ■ | F | B | I |
| M | O | O | N | ■ | H | I | T | T | H | E | R | O | A | D |
| P | L | O | T | ■ | E | P | E | E | ■ | E | A | G | L | E |
| S | A | P | S | ■ | R | O | W | S | ■ | R | H | Y | M | E |

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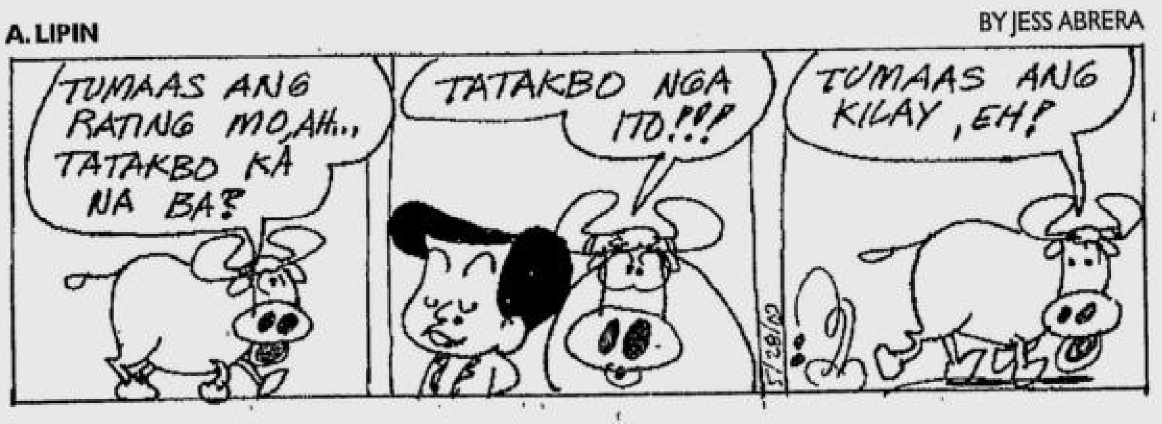
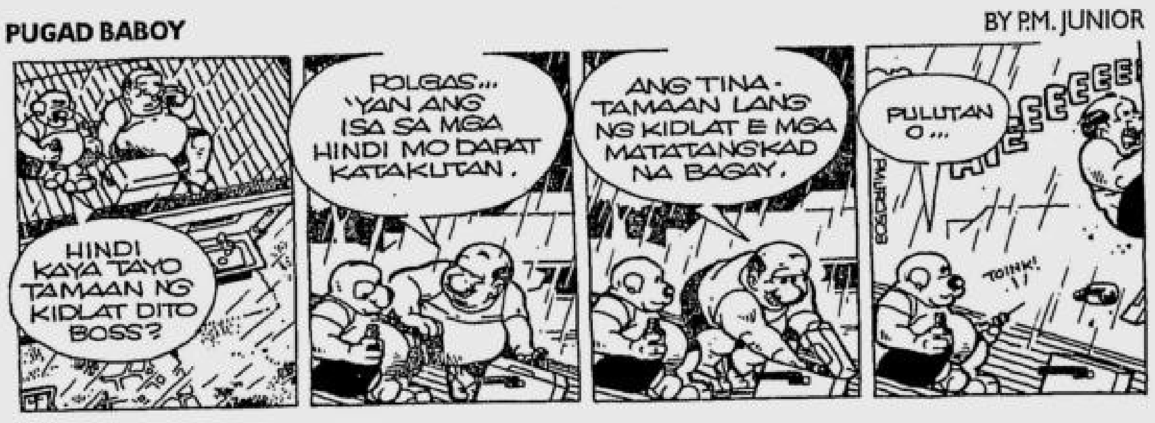
## A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


TUMAAS ANG RATING MO, AH.., TATAKBO KA NA BA?
TATAKBO NGA ITO!?!?
TUMAAS ANG KILAY, EH!

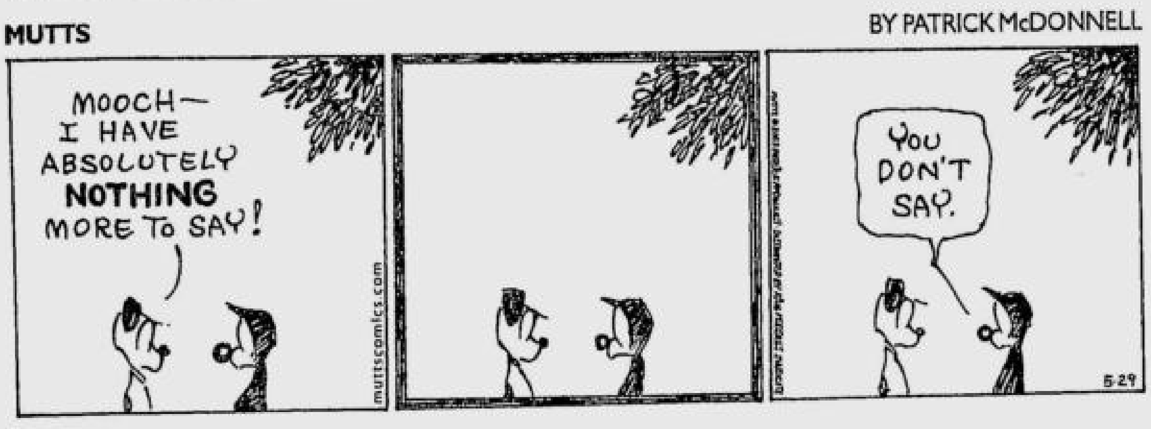
## PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


HINDI KAYA TAYO TAMAAN NG KIDLAT DITO BOSS?
POLGAS... 'YAN ANG ISA SA MGA HINDI MO DAPAT KATAKUTAN.
ANG TINATAMAAN LANG NG KIDLAT E MGA MATATANGKAD NA BAGAY.
PULUTAN O...
EEEEEE
TOINK!

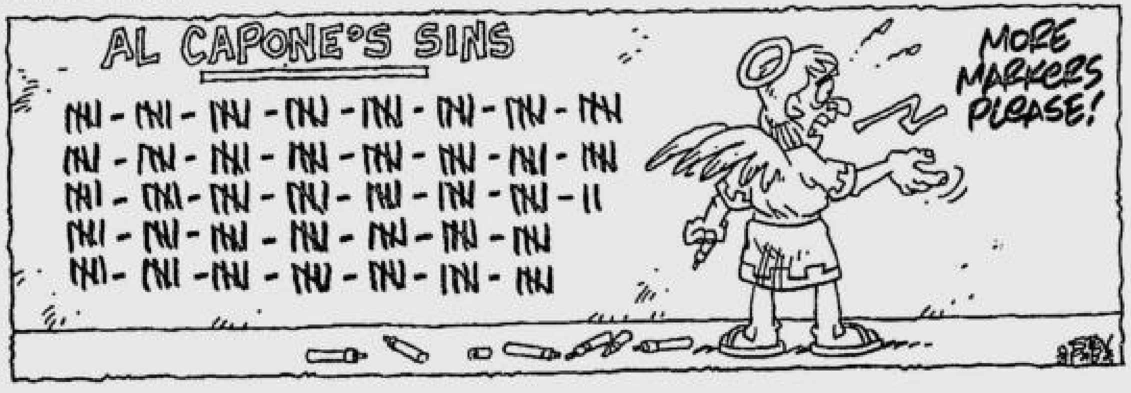
## MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


MOOCH— I HAVE ABSOLUTELY NOTHING MORE TO SAY!
YOU DON'T SAY.
mutts comics.com
5-29

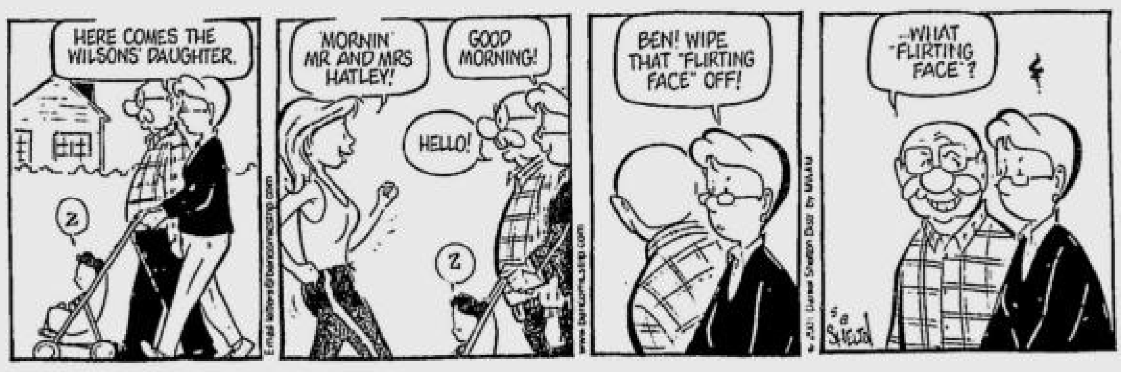
## DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


AL CAPONE'S SINS
MORE MARKERS PLEASE!

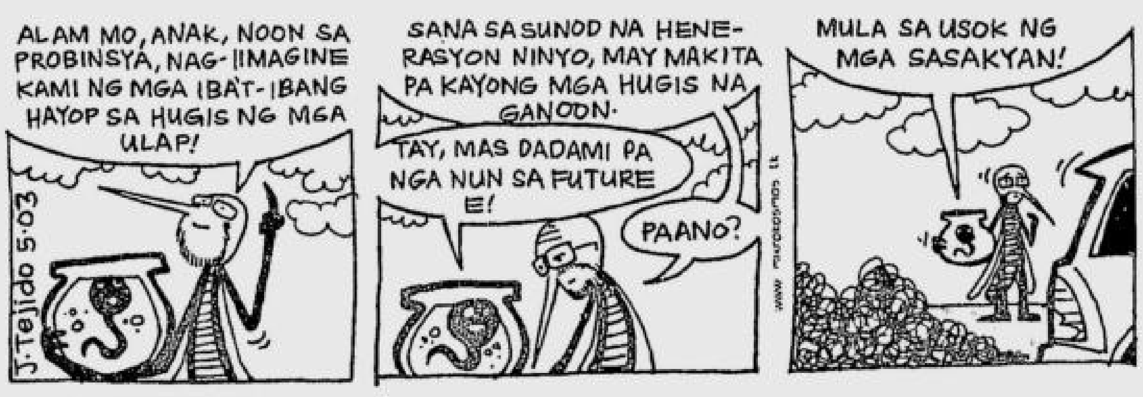
## BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


HERE COMES THE WILSONS' DAUGHTER.
MORNIN' MR AND MRS HATLEY!
GOOD MORNING!
HELLO!
BEN! WIPE THAT "FLIRTING FACE" OFF!
...WHAT "FLIRTING FACE"?

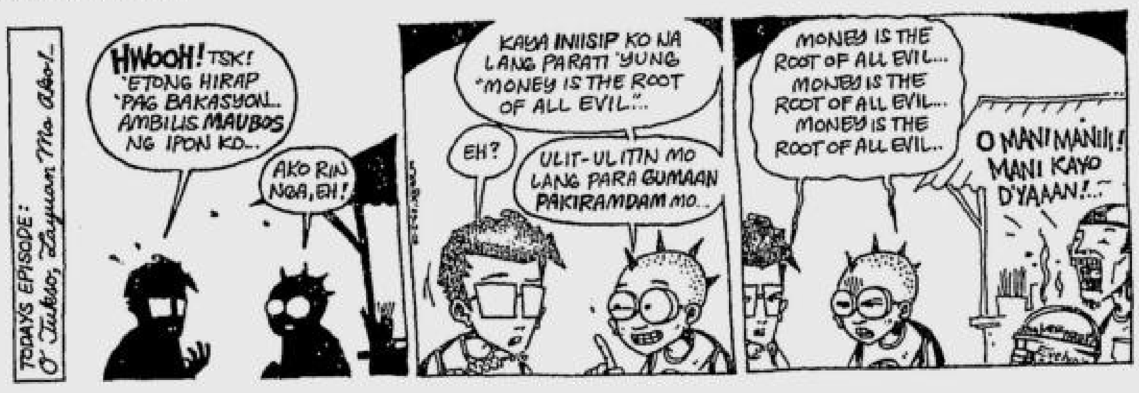
## MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


ALAM MO, ANAK, NOON SA PROBINSYA, NAG-IIMAGINE KAMI NG MGA IBA'T-IBANG HAYOP SA HUGIS NG MGA ULAP!
J. Tejido 5·03
SANA SA SUNOD NA HENERASYON NINYO, MAY MAKITA PA KAYONG MGA HUGIS NA GANOON.
TAY, MAS DADAMI PA NGA NUN SA FUTURE E!
PAANO?
MULA SA USOK NG MGA SASAKYAN!

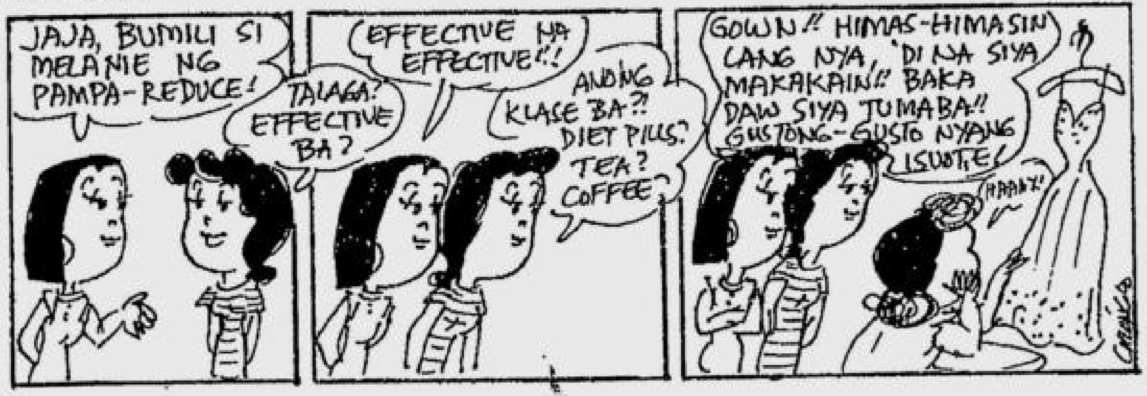
## KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


TODAY'S EPISODE: O' Tukso, Layuan Mo Ako!.
HWOOH! TSK! 'ETONG HIRAP 'PAG BAKASYON.. AMBILIS MAUBOS NG IPON KO..
AKO RIN NGA, EH!
KAYA INIISIP KO NA LANG PARATI 'YUNG "MONEY IS THE ROOT OF ALL EVIL."..
EH?
ULIT-ULITIN MO LANG PARA GUMAAN PAKIRAMDAM MO..
MONEY IS THE ROOT OF ALL EVIL... MONEY IS THE ROOT OF ALL EVIL... MONEY IS THE ROOT OF ALL EVIL..
O MANI MANI!! MANI KAYO D'YAAAN!..

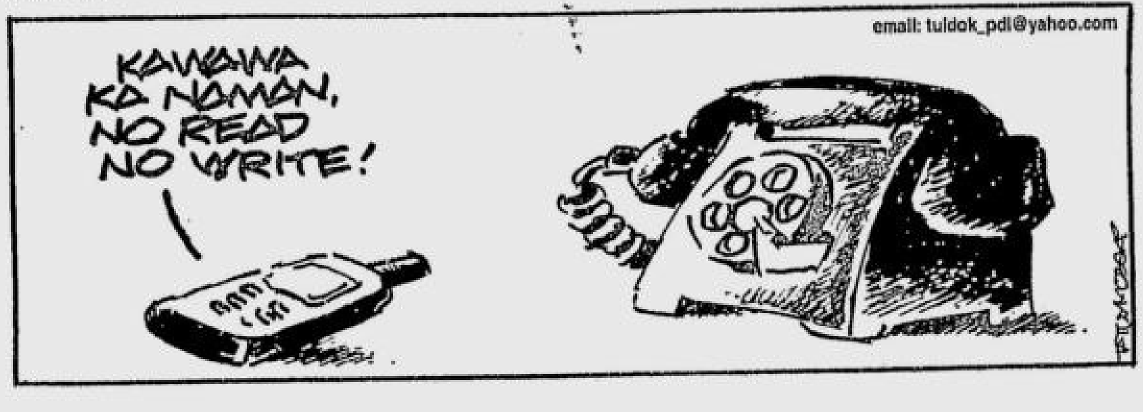
## LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


JAJA, BUMILI SI MELANIE NG PAMPA-REDUCE!
TALAGA? EFFECTIVE BA?
EFFECTIVE NA EFFECTIVE!.!
ANONG KLASE BA?! DIET PILLS? TEA? COFFEE?
GOWN!! HIMAS-HIMASIN LANG NYA, 'DI NA SIYA MAKAKAIN!! BAKA DAW SIYA TUMABA!! GUSTONG-GUSTO NYANG ISUOT, E!
HAAAY!

## TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


email: tuldok_pdl@yahoo.com
KAWAWA KA NAMAN, NO READ NO WRITE!

# Boob-tube booboos

**VIEWFINDER**

*Nestor U. Torre*

HOST: I hear you fought with your boyfriend?

Guest: No, no fight, he just left.

Host: He just left you, just like that?

Guest: Yeah, *biglang* he just left me, no ha, no hu!

(Boo-hu!)

***

Host: What do you have to say to your detractors?

Guest: Who?

Host: All the people who say that you don't deserve the acting award you got?

Guest: Well, *'yang mga bumabatikos sa akin, wala silang karapatan, kasi hindi naman sila ang nagbigay sa akin ng* award, *'no?*

*(Kaya ka nga nila binabatikos—'no?!)*

***

Host: Our guest on our interview show today is a very knowledgeable legislator. *Magandang umaga po*, Congress Padilla!

(The guest may be knowledgeable, but what about the host?)

***

Host: Is it true that your brother is courting a famous sexy comedienne?

Guest: Excuse me, but I'm not on any position to speak on my brother's *bahar!*

(Your brother's—what?!)

***

Host: In this time of SARS and rising cost of the dollar, fewer people are taking their vacation abroad. What about you?

Guest: Oh, I agree. Last Week, instead of going to Hong Kong, I just went to a fantastic resort here.

Host: You enjoyed yourself?

Guest: Of course—and I saved so much money! What I discover, *mas mura* pa to travel in the Philippines than abroad!

(What a brilliant discovery!)

***

Host: Do you think the country's economy will improve this year!

Guest: Well, to be conservative in my forecast, I think we can expect to experience some thin months followed by some thick months!

(Is that the thin and the thick of it?)

***

Host: Do you expect to win an acting award this year?

Guest: Well, it depends of my performance to the taste of the judges!

(Ooops, there goes your award!)

***

Host: The other show is boasting *na natalo na nila kayo sa* ratings. Your reaction?

Guest: Of course not. They're dreaming! Any way you look at it, *kami ang nag-iisang nangunguna!*

(Wow, *nag-iisa na, nangunguna pa!)*

***

Host: What is your advice to the people on the SARS problem, how to avoid it?

Guest: We have to protect especially our children—especially *para sa mga bata na may sakit na ospital.*

*(Ano raw?!)*

***

Host: Well, we've come to the end of the show for this week. Goodbye!

Co-host: But, before we leave, we will leave you with food for the day!

(He could mean "food for thought" or "thought for the day." Trouble is, he appears to have tried to say both phrases at the same time!)

**DID YOU KNOW...**

**Mylene Dizon** was seen eating with four male friends at the Quick Stomach fast-food restaurant along Makati Avenue in Makati City two Fridays ago. "They were loud but they seemed to be having a good time," eyewitness Poppinjay told INQUIRER Entertainment. It was about 5:30 in the morning.

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|---|---|---|
| **MATRIX: RELOADED**<br>**R13**<br>1:25,4:15,<br>7:05,9:55 | **AGENT CODY BANKS**<br>**PG13**<br>1:00,3:10,<br>5:20,7:30,9:40 | **HOW TO LOSE A GUY IN 10 DAYS**<br>**P13**<br>11:55,2:25,4:55,7:25,10:00 |
| **BRUCE ALMIGHTY**<br>**PG13**<br>1:10,3:10,<br>5:10,7:10,9:10 | **FRIDA**<br>**R18**<br>11:50,2:20,<br>4:50,7:20,10:00 | **BRUCE ALMIGHTY**<br>**PG13**<br>12:10,2:10,4:10,<br>6:10,8:10,10:10 |

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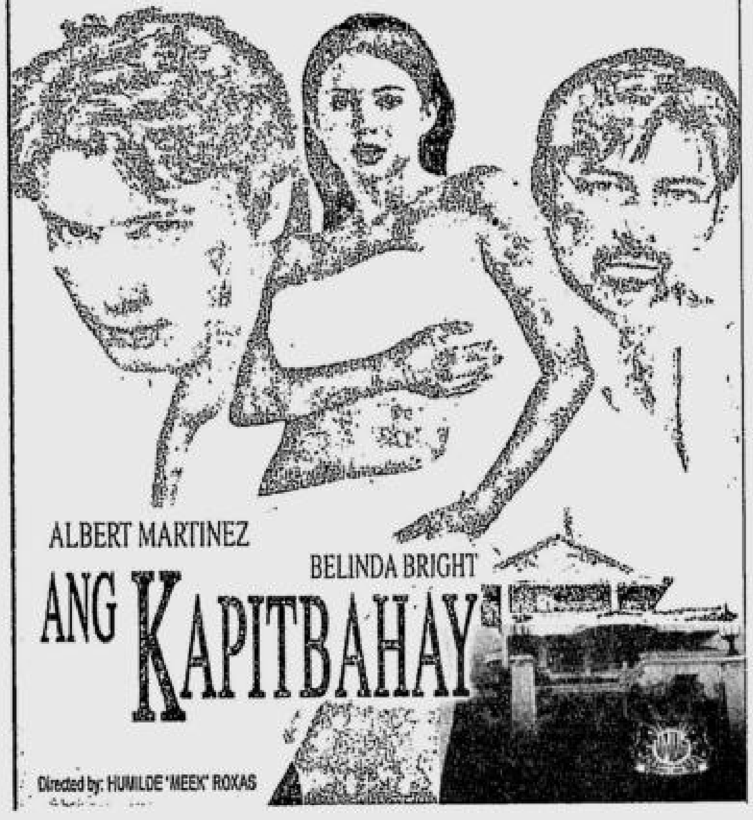

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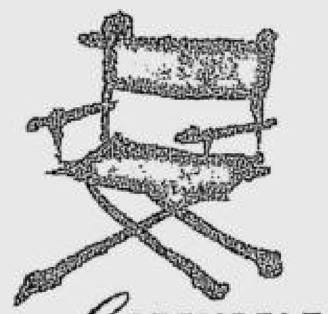

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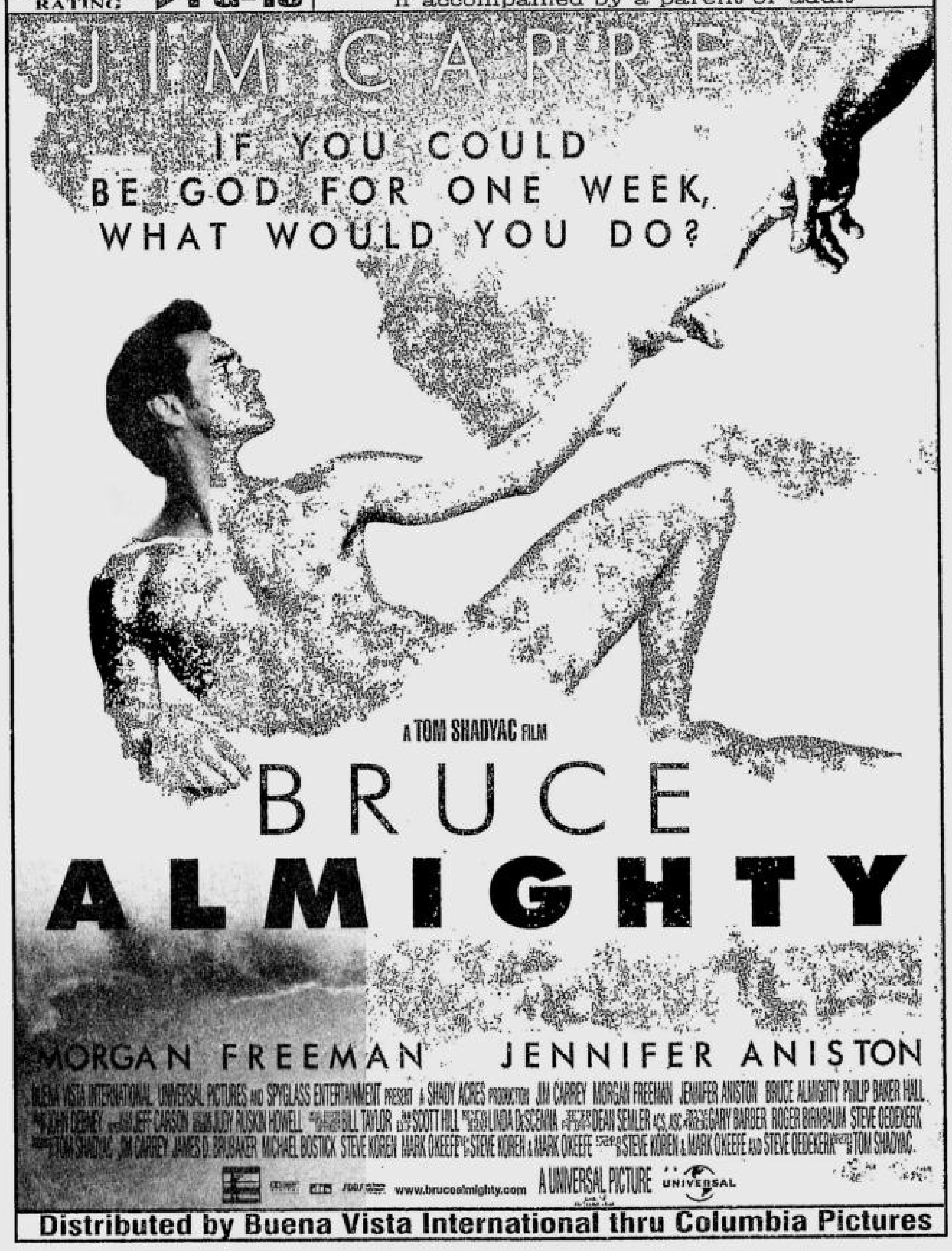

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A peek into the secret life of Hollywood celebrity known to audiences as the star of 1960s TV series Hogan's Heroes, Bob Crane. But behind the loving wife (RITA WILSON), the successful comedic career & the public adoration lies an obsession for the forbidden. Auto Focus chronicles Bob Crane's downward spiral into erotic addiction - from his promiscuous lifestyle & unconventional hobbies to his mysterious death.
Auto Focus creates an absorbing portrait of a man whose carnal hunger brought about his eventual down fall as an actor, a father & a man.
"TWO THUMBS UP, WAY UP!"
-- Ebert & Roeper
MTRCB Rating: Restricted 18 (R-18)
NOKIA
INQUIRER

WHO IS CLETIS TOUT?

AYALA CINEMAS
OPENS JUNE 4 AT Greenbelt ArtFilm
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*Getting the alias was half the battle.*
*Surviving it is the other.*
WHO IS
CLETIS TOUT?
CHRISTIAN SLATER, RICHARD DREYFUSS, PORTIA DE ROSSI & TIM ALLEN
A prison escapee (Slater) assumes the identity of a deceased man named Cletis Tout, but soon discovers that someone had a contract out on Cletis' life, so now the escapee has to deal with not only the police, but a hitman (Allen) as well.
*"A gem of a romantic crime comedy that turns out to be clever, amusing and unpredictable."*
-- Kevin Thomas, LOS ANGELES TIMES
MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13 (PG-13)
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SO CLOSE, starring Asia's most alluring and talented young actresses, features the coolest, breath-taking martial arts sequences from world-renowned director Cory Yuen, Jet Li's martial arts choreographer in THE ONE, KISS OF THE DRAGON and ROMEO MUST DIE. Don't miss it!
SECOND WEEK

# Metring David breaks hip in QC accident

By Marinel R. Cruz

FORMER comedienne Metring David broke her hip bone when she slipped while picking *sampaguita* blossoms from a neighbor's garden in Quezon City last May 2.

David, 82, has been confined at the Philippine Orthopedic Hospital on Banawe Avenue in Quezon City for three weeks now and is scheduled to have a total hipbone replacement today, said her granddaughter Ellen Woldenborg.

David was reaching for the flowers when her foot got stuck in a hole on the sidewalk and she slipped, Woldenborg said. "Fortunately, *Lola* was able to grab the shirt of the child beside her," she said, "or she could have landed on her head and the injury could have killed her. When I found her, she could not move her legs and her hip bone was sticking out. I carried her and took her to the hospital."

The neighbor's house was about 10 houses away from their own on General Tinio Street in La Loma, Quezon City, the granddaughter said.

During hip replacement, which usually lasts 2 to 3 hours, the surgeon removes the broken bone tissue and cartilage from the hip joint. David's granddaughter said the artificial hip alone costs about P30,000.

She said they have been able to solicit funds from the Movie Worker's Welfare Foundation (Mowelfund) and the Shining Light Foundation for the operation. Friends like Sen. Tito Sotto and his wife Helen Gamboa and comedienne Elizabeth Ramsey also donated money, she said.

DAVID received a special Famas last month.

"We're also concerned about the medical bills because the doctor said *Lola* has to stay in the hospital for two to three more weeks to recuperate," Woldenborg said.

Metring David was active on the stage, in movies and television from the '60s. She was also a regular performer at the Manila Grand Opera House and at the Clover Theater in Manila. She was a mainstay on the popular soap in the '80s, "Gulong ng Palad."

Last April, the Film Academy of Movie Arts and Sciences (Famas) honored her with the Lou Salvador Memorial Sr. Memorial Award.

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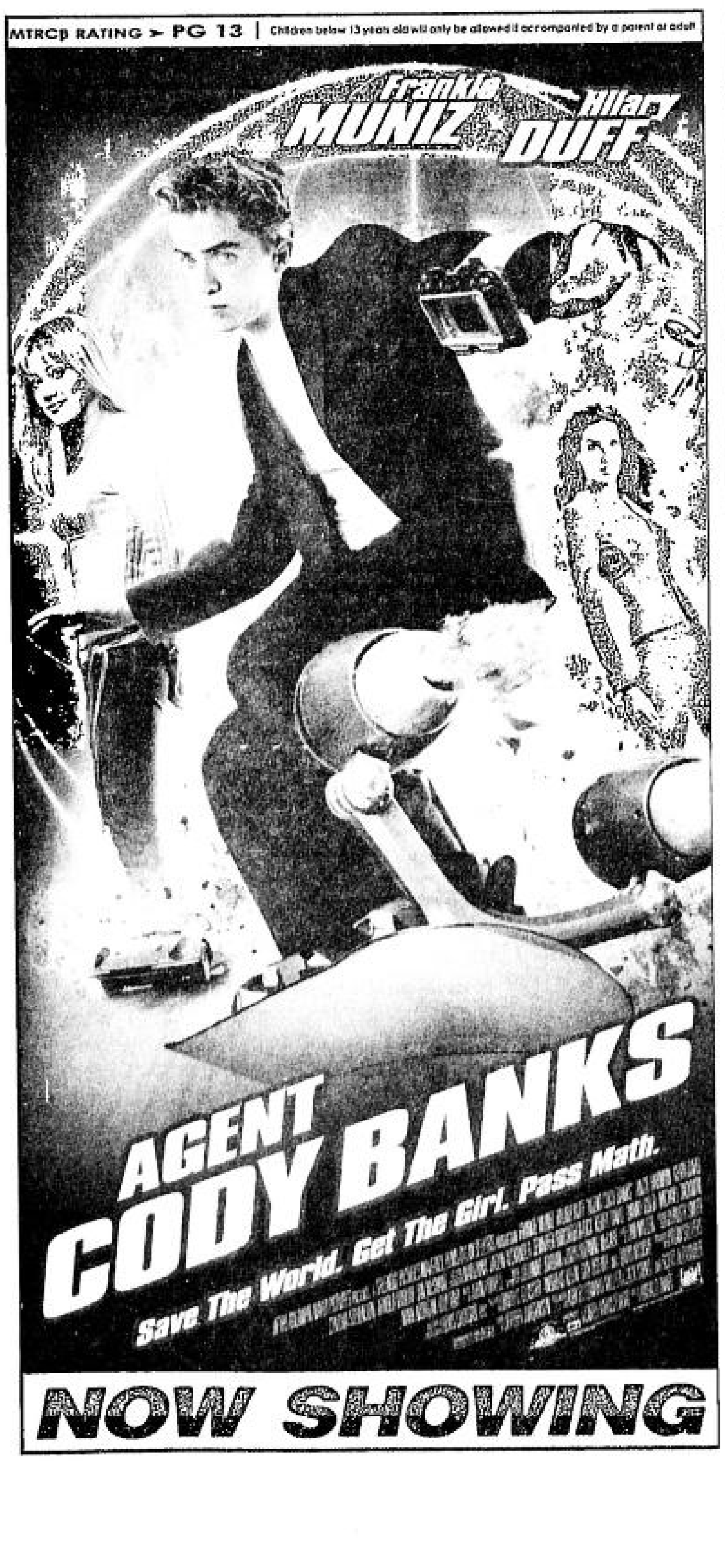
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ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7

| | |
|---|---|
| Ali 1 | PAKNERS |
| Ali 2 | TANGING INA |
| Ali 3 | BRUCE ALMIGHTY |
| Ali 4 | MATRIX RELOADED |
| Ali 5 | AGENT CODY BANKS |
| Ali 6 | FRIDA |
| Ali 7 | KAPITBAHAY |

ARANETA COLISEUM

| | |
|---|---|
| MAY 30 | PBA GAMES |
| MAY 31 | PBA FANS DAY |
| JUNE 14 | MARTIN & REGINE CONCERT |
| JUNE 16,18,20 | WORLD SLASHER CUP |
| JUNE 28 | NCAA OPEN CEREMONIES |

ELEPHANT WORLD

ELEPHANT SHOW
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THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

| MANILA | |
|---|---|
| EASTERN | |
| MAXIM | CLOSED |
| MIRAMAR | SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA |
| ODEON | X-MEN 2 |
| ODEON-2 | BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN |
| ROBEN | BOLD STAR |
| TANDEM-1 | SUGAT |
| TANDEM-2 | KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO |
| TIMES | SPY 'LEGEND OF CROCODILE |
| **QUEZON CITY** | |
| ACT-1 | SENSUAL ISLAND |
| ACT-2 | KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT |
| ACT-3 | ORIGINAL SIN |
| ACT-4 | HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY |
| CORONET A | PAKNERS |
| CORONET B | A MAN APART |
| QUEZON-1 | HIRAM |
| REMAR | X-MEN 2 |
| REMAR-2 | BOLD STAR |
| **NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA** | |
| A | ANG TANGING INA |
| B | PAKNERS |
| C | |
| **MANDALUYONG CITY** | |
| SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL | 635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70 |
| CINEMA-1 | CLOSED FOR RENOVATION |
| CINEMA-2 | CLOSED FOR RENOVATION |
| **CAINTA RIZAL** | |
| STA. LUCIA EAST | (681-5401 TO 19) |
| CINEMA-1 | DAYO |
| CINEMA-2 | ANGHEL SA LUPA |
| CINEMA-3 | HIRAM |
| CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL) | MATRIX RELOADED |
| CINEMA-5 (DTS) | X-MEN 2 |
| CINEMA-6 | KIKAY |
| CINEMA-7 | TILL THERE WAS YOU |
| CINEMA-8 | MATRIX RELOADED |
| CINEMA-9 (DTS) | MATRIX RELOADED |
| CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL) | MATRIX RELOADED |
| CINEMA-11 (SDDS) | SO CLOSE |
| CINEMA-12 | HOW TO LOSE A GUY |
| CINEMA-14 | RING 0 |
| CINEMA-15 | WALANG KAPALIT |
| **LORES** | |
| CINEMA-2 | SENSUAL ISLAND |
| CINEMA-3 | KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT |
| **NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN** | |
| CINEMA 1 | WALANG KAPALIT |
| CINEMA 2 | MATRIX RELOADED |
| CINEMA 3 | FINAL DESTINATION 2 |
| CINEMA 4 | NATIONAL SECURITY |
| **UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL** | |
| (PARAÑAQUE) | SENSUAL ISLAND |
| CINEMA-1 | KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT |
| CINEMA-2 | MEN IN BLACK II |
| CINEMA-4 | SELDA |

# Bojo Molina marries ex-girlfriend

## DOLLYWOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

THERE ARE friends you often hang out with and yet the connection seems superficial.

And then there are friends with whom you can always pick up from where you left off no matter how long it's been since your last bonding session. Such is the friendship I am so blessed to have with **Bojo Molina** and the rest of our *tropa* at our official hangout, Friends@d Square at St. Francis Square in Mandaluyong City. We live up to the name of the bar, which incidentally has a new loungey look and now serves lunch as well as *merienda* at budget-friendly prices.

Bojo surprised us all when he suddenly popped up at Friends last Friday night. The moment I saw him I could not help but burst into happy tears. I was also overjoyed to see our longtime friend, **Pilar Mateo**.

It was quite an emotional moment. Boj hushed me by telling me that it was not his ghost but really him in front of me so I should stop crying. He apologized for leaving without saying goodbye properly.

But true friends never really leave you. He just had to go away for a while to do some soul-searching. And not only did Boj find himself, he also found a lifetime partner.

Boj married **Jen Kwe** last Dec 7, 2002 at the Leo Palace Hotel in Manenggon Hills in Guam. Theirs is such a touching love story.

When Boj flew to Guam in a haste, he was nursing a broken heart. Jen, one of his ex-girlfriends, was based in Hawaii. As soon as Jen found out that Boj was in Guam, she flew to be by his side. Apparently, their feelings were rekindled.

Boj and Jen plan to have another wedding in Bojo's hometown in Laguna. For now, they are getting settled in Guam.

"I work for the government as an administrative aide," said Boj. "Of course I miss show biz, but not the intrigues. In time, I might do some projects like movies or guest appearances on TV. I'll shuttle back and forth. Guam is not too far away. I'm planning to bring some singers to Guam."

We were all ribbing Boj that for sure many girls would mourn now that he is married. He just smiled.

Pilar teased him: "So now **Rica Peralejo**'s mom should leave you alone. Besides, it seems like Rica's not too visible lately. *Natabunan na siya ng* Viva Hot Babes."

BOJO Molina and wife Jen Kwe

Boj is the type of guy who keeps on giving even when there's no more left to give. We have seen each other through all the ups and downs in our private lives and careers. That's why seeing him so happy made me happy, too.

Congrats, Boj and Jen! May you love happily ever after!!

### 'Trend Alert'

ALLOW me to invite you all to watch "Trend Alert" on Saturday, May 30, 8 p.m., at Legend Hotel on Pioneer Street in Mandaluyong City. It will showcase the fab creations of Ms **Cerena Masu**, who also makes my outfits in my new show with **TJ Manotoc** and **Angelu de Leon**, "Celebrity DAT Com" (Thursdays, IBC 13, 9:30-10:30 p.m.). Masu's creations have that girly feel without being too frilly.

Tickets are available at the lobby, or call 7241067 for inquiries.

*Foor feedback, e-mail friends_at_dsquare@yahoo.com*

# New recording star ...

From page A28

### Singing waiter

Born in Quezon City, Llana migrated with his family to the United States when he was three. He lived in New York and later moved to Virginia.

His parents sang and played the guitar. When he was younger, he and an older sister joined the church choir. After high school, he took formal lessons at the Manhattan School of Music. He would later also work as a singing waiter on the Spirit Cruises.

"It was a dinner cruise," Llana shares. "I waited on tables in my last year in high school and first year in college. It was hard work, but it was the only way I could do what I wanted to do. My parents were spending so much for my college tuition and I needed extra money for acting classes. I didn't want to depend on my parents for that.

"But I didn't mind working. Even if I was doing 15-hour shifts, I was so thrilled to be in New York as an adult, living in my own small studio apartment while auditioning for shows."

He remembers that he was drawn to theater after he watched "Les Miserables." In school, he acted in plays like "West Side Story" and "Once Upon a Mattress."

### Dream roles

Today, six years after he made his Broadway debut, Llana still cherishes the lesson he learned from his "The King and I" costar Phillips, one of the actors he looks up to.

"He told me that no matter where you are working, no matter how big or small your part is, always treat people well," Llana shares. "People will always remember that, whether it is the leading lady, the doorman or the fans who wait outside."

Llana dreams of playing the lead in "The King and I" one day and, more important to him, Marius in "Les Miz."

Recently, another of Jose's dreams came true: a singing career in the Philippines. He now has a solo album from Viva Records, where he sings contemporary classics by Filipino composers.

The album has Ernest Escaler and Vic del Rosario Jr. as executive producers, and Eugene Villaluz as producer. Selections include songs penned by George Canseco, Willy Cruz, Louie Ocampo, Ryan Cayabyab, Danny Tan, Louie Ocampo and Ogie Alcasid.

BROADWAY co-stars Lea Salonga and Llana

"I'm excited about the album," says Llana, who has started recording the songs. "I'll also sing duets with Sharon Cuneta and Regine Velasquez."

### More Filipinino

Even if he grew up in the US, Llana claims he has remained Filipino at heart.

"Compared to other Fil-Am kids, I am more Filipino," he says. "My parents always made sure we spoke Filipino at home, that's why I understand the language pretty well."

He has Pinoy tastes even when it comes to food.

"I can cook a Filipino meal," he boasts. "I can cook *adobo* any time. For parties, I make *lumpia*. I can also whip-up *kare-kare* for special occasions."

He admits that "as a kid, you sort of shun your being a Filipino. But once you become an adult, you learn to appreciate more where you came from. And that's where I am right now."

Llana says that before he became an actor on Broadway, he had to overcome several obstacles, both personal and professional.

"My older sister, Patricia, and I went through a lot of tough times," he grants. "Our parents divorced when we were young, but that would strengthen us later on. We both became self-sufficient, more confident and more responsible. At the same time, we knew we could always lean on each other. We both became academic achievers."

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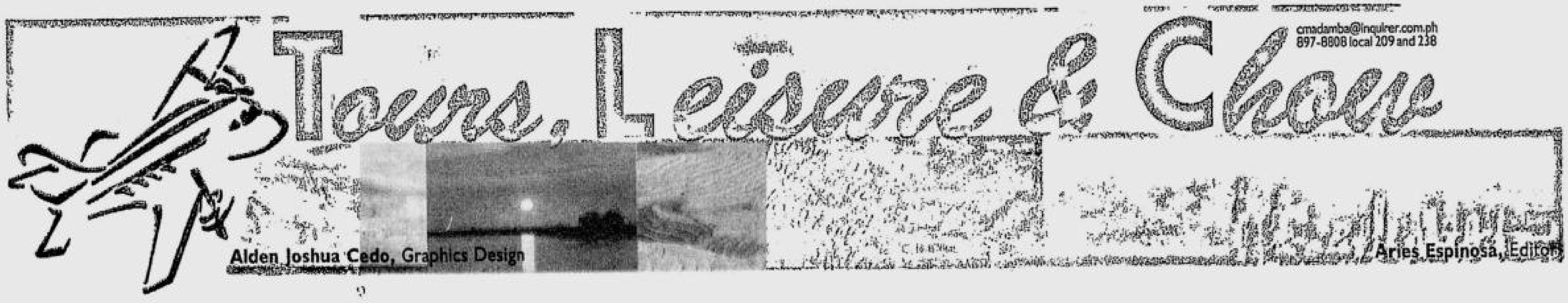

# Tours, Leisure & Chow

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Alden Joshua Cedo, Graphics Design

Aries Espinosa, Editor

### DADDY'S DAY OUT

# Dusit Hotel Nikko celebrates Father's Day

The hotel, together with the rest of the world, celebrates Father's Day in a unique and special way on June 15

FATHER'S Day Trivia: Ever wondered how Father's Day started? The idea for creating a day for children to honor their fathers began in Spokane, Washington. A woman by the name of Sonora Smart Dodd thought of the idea for Father's Day while listening to a Mother's Day sermon. Having been raised by her father, Henry Jackson Smart after her mother died, Sonora wanted her father to know how special he was to her. She chose to hold that special day for fathers on June 19, 1910 since June was the month her father was born. President Calvin Coolidge later proclaimed 1924 the third Sunday of June as Father's Day.

Dusit Hotel Nikko, together with the rest of the world, celebrates Father's Day in a unique and special way on June 15.

Fathers dining with their families at any food and beverage outlet of the hotel will automatically receive a voucher from Clark Hatch Fitness Center where they can make use of its facilities for one week. Fathers will also get a chance to "Pick-A-Prize" where they can win discounts and freebies from Dusit Hotel Nikko and other surprise gifts.

On this special day, families may enjoy buffet at The Café or set menus at the Benjarong Royal Thai Restaurant, Thien Duong Vietnamese Restaurant and Benkay Japanese Restaurant for only P500+ per person.

For queries and reservations, call 867-3333 extension 3346 for the Café, 3351 for Benjarong, 3343 for Benkay and 3354 for Thien Duong.

## Where to Stop Where to GO

### A weekly directory of the country's best establishments

**New World Renaissance Hotel**
Esperanza St. cor. Makati Ave., Makati City
Tel. 811-6888 / Fax. 811-6777

**Makati Shangri-La Hotel**
Ayala Ave. cor. Makati Ave., Makati City
Tel. 813-8888 / Fax. 813-5499

**Dusit Hotel Nikko**
Ayala Center, 1223 Makati City Phil.
Tel. 867-3333 Email: dusitmnl@dusit.com

**Barcelo Hotels and Resorts**
4/F Adamson Centre, 121 LP Leviste St,
Salcedo Village, Makati
Tel. (02) 867-1159 / Fax. (02) 867-1185

**Mactan Island Resort**
Punta Engaño Road, Lapu Lapu, Cebu
Tel. (632) 231-0288/Fax (632) 231-1688

**Hotel InterContinental**
1 Ayala Avenue, Makati City
Tel.815-9711

**The Marco Polo**
CM Recto St., Davao City 8000
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**Hotel Veniz**
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**Hotel Supremo**
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**The Peninsula Manila Hotel**
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**Mandarin Oriental Manila Hotel**
Cor. Paseo de Roxas & Makati Ave.,
Makati City
Tel. 750-8888 / Fax. 817-2472

**The Bellevue Manila**
North Bridgeway, Northgate
Cyberzone,Filinvest Corporate City,
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**Waterfront Hotel Lahug**
I Salinas Drive, Lahug Cebu City
Tel. (6332) 232-6888/Fax (6332) 232-6880

**Waterfront Hotel Mactan**
I Airport Road, Lapu Lapu City, 6015
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**Royal Mandaya Hotel**
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**Cooyeesan Hotel Plaza**
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**Golden Pine Hotel and Restaurant**
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Legarda Road, Baguio City
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**Taal Vista Hotel**
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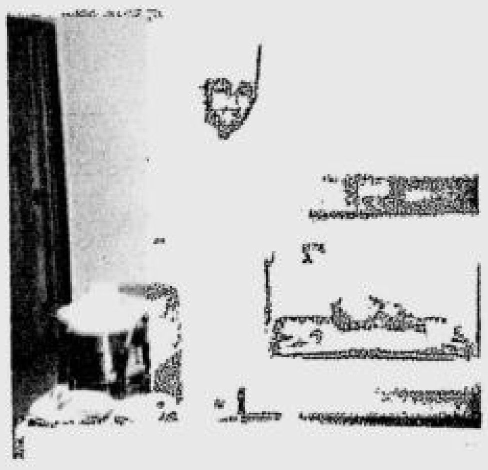
For feedback and inquiries, call
**899-4426 or 897-8808 loc 209**

# A culinary Asian journey at Bellevue



DISTINCTIVE diners south of Metro Manila have recently made an exciting new discovery—the Café d' Asie Asian Specialty Restaurant of The Bellevue Hotel, the first full-service business hotel in the area with international standards.

Opened early this year, the hotel with five-star appointments is nestled inside an information technology zone within the Filinvest Corporate City. It boasts of 222 deluxe and suite rooms, modern communications and banquet facilities, the latest gym equipment and services, spa treatments, Jacuzzi and infinity pool, bringing to reality the vision of ultimate comfort and convenience.

Aside from its luxurious facilities, The Bellevue Hotel serves authentic Asian dishes in Café d' Asie. The restaurant carries an Asian concept and brings signature dishes of countries from this region, as well as an international selection. Award-winning executive chef William Tay Teck Hock from Singapore offers a mouthwatering array of Asian specialties, such as Hainanese Chicken Rice; *Bak Kut Teh*, pork sparerib soup with Chinese herb served in a clay pot with fragrant rice; Satay, or grilled skewers of chicken, beef and pork garnished with rice pudding, cucumber, onion and spicy peanut sauce; spicy Wok Fried Chili Crab, fresh water crab in spicy chili sauce served with jasmine rice and Beef Kway Teow, double-boiled beef gravy with rice sheet noodles, shredded bean sprouts and coriander leaf, among many others.

On top of that, great deals are in store for patrons during lunch and dinner. For the buffet dinner, a three-plus-one promo entitles one complimentary buffet for every group of four.

The Bellevue Hotel rises as the choice of residence in the South, with its impeccable service and flavorful food offerings. Businessmen and travelers in the area need not look far, for it promises a beautiful view of luxury and comfort, a memorable experience of distinctive hotel living.

### [illegible]

MAY will definitely be a festive month for the wonderful City of Lapu-lapu as Waterfront Airport Hotel & Casino Mactan, together with the Lapu-lapu City Tourism, Cultural and Historical Affairs Commission bring you the first ever Mactan Island Festival.

On May 31, the festivities will start with a Cebu product showcase at the lobby parking of Waterfront Mactan. At 4:30 p.m., the float parade will start along the streets of Lapu-lapu City and ends back at Waterfront Mactan Lobby parking. After that, a cultural show will be held featuring known dance troupes from University of San Carlos, University of Cebu and Kadaugan sa Mactan dance troupe.

The hottest local bands, Lick and Triple Play, will kickstart the party, which will be topped off with a fireworks display. TV personality Christine Bersola will cover the event for ABS-CBN and will also be on the Waterfront Mactan float.

The Mactan Island Festival is also brought to you by Casino Filipino Mactan, Cebu Pacific Air, Basic Graphics, Nature Works, Alaxan, Diatabs, San Miguel Beer, Cebu Daily News, The Freeman, Citylight 89.9, Modern Teknika, Charlie Rhythms 101.9, and Crossover.

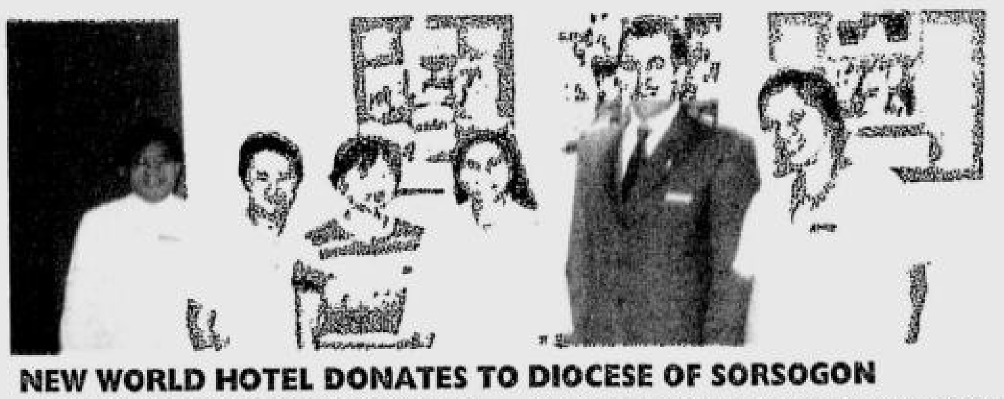
# French master chef holds cooking class at the Mandarin

GOURMANDS, budding chefs, caterers and certified foodies should not miss the rare chance for an intimate culinary interaction with master chef Bernard Guilhaudin, vice president for culinary development in Asia of Le Cordon Bleu Institute, and previously was at the helm of some of France's top Michelin-starred restaurants – including the legendary Alain Chapel, the La Tour d' Argent, Vivarois, and Laurent.

Chef Guilhaudin arrives in Manila to preside over Mandarin Oriental, Manila's Journées Gastronomiques, an unforgettable journey of sublime French gastronomic pleasures at The Tivoli to be held from June 4 to 17, with the support of Le Cordon Bleu Institute and the Embassy of France, in conjunction with the French Spring 2003 in Manila.

For the two cooking classes that will be held on two consecutive Thursdays at 10 a.m. on June 5 in the Nash room, and June 12 in the Fontaine room, Guilhaudin will demonstrate the making of Crispy shrimp with Bahiannaise sauce, and Piña Colada coupe and pineapple fritters, on June 5; clam soup with essence of lime, and roasted chicken breast with spring onions and caramelized vegetables, on June 12. These creations will also be part of the three-course lunch menu that will be offered to the students at The Tivoli, at P1,500++ , inclusive of the class. Like other master chefs of Le Cordon Bleu who have been with Michelin-starred restaurants and winners of prestigious competitions, Guilhaudin shares his expertise with students enrolled in the institute, considered the world leader in culinary education.

Guilhaudin also lords over a Gastronomie Gala Dinner at The Tivoli on June 10, Tuesday, which is offered at P2,900++. Other "French Spring" events at Mandarin Oriental include a display of Le Cordon Bleu products at the Mandarin Deli from June 1 to 17; Compagnie Kelemenis, a contemporary dance performance and cocktails at the Ballroom on June 11, Wednesday at 7 p.m.; an afternoon concert featuring soprano Aude Wacziarg at the Captain's Bar on June 15, Sunday accompanied by talented pianist Florian Bollot



**NEW WORLD HOTEL DONATES TO DIOCESE OF SORSOGON**

As part of New World Renaissance Hotel's continuous effort in implementing its "spirit to Serve our Community" program, the hotel donated boxes of used clothing, bed sheets, and soap to the Sisters Servants of the Divine Healer, Diocese of Sorsogon. Shown are New World Renaissance Hotel general manager Stephan Stoss (second from right), director of finance John Kwok (left), director of services Conchita De Leon (right), with Mother Superior Sister Adelia Oling (fourth from left) and her staff.

**CK FOR MOTHERS DAY**

Mothers who celebrated Mother's Day last May 11 at the various restaurants of Makati Shangri-La felt a little more special as they were all given tokens and gift items by leading perfume manufacturer, Calvin Klein. Some moms were luckier than most, like Marilyn Go who was feted by her family at the Inagiku Restaurant. She received a special Calvin Klein gift set containing the much-coveted Eternity Perfume and Hand Lotion as raffle prize. Shown is Go receiving her gift from Inagiku manager Yoshihiro Ishikawa.

# Tours, Leisure & Chow

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**Alden Joshua Cedo**, Graphics Design
**Aries Espinosa**, Editor

### DADDY'S DAY OUT
## Dusit Hotel Nikko celebrates Father's Day

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FATHER'S Day Trivia: Ever wondered how Father's Day started? The idea for creating a day for children to honor their fathers began in Spokane, Washington. A woman by the name of Sonora Smart Dodd thought of the idea for Father's Day while listening to a Mother's Day sermon. Having been raised by her father, Henry Jackson Smart after her mother died, Sonora wanted her father to know how special he was to her. She chose to hold that special day for fathers on June 19, 1910 since June was the month her father was born. President Calvin Coolidge later proclaimed 1924 the third Sunday of June as Father's Day.

Dusit Hotel Nikko, together with the rest of the world, celebrates Father's Day in a unique and special way on June 15.

Fathers dining with their families at any food and beverage outlet of the hotel will automatically receive a voucher from Clark Hatch Fitness Center where they can make use of its facilities for one week. Fathers will also get a chance to "Pick-A-Prize" where they can win discounts and freebies from Dusit Hotel Nikko and other surprise gifts.

On this special day, families may enjoy buffet at The Café or set menus at the Benjarong Royal Thai Restaurant, Thien Duong Vietnamese Restaurant and Benkay Japanese Restaurant for only P500+ per person.

For queries and reservations, call 867-3333 extension 3346 for the Café, 3351 for Benjarong, 3343 for Benkay and 3354 for Thien Duong.

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Ayala Center, 1223 Makati City Phil.
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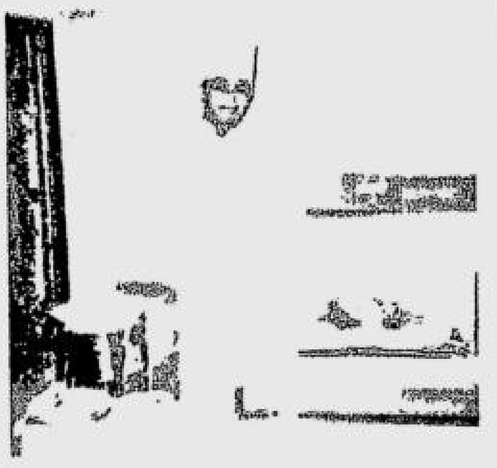
## A culinary Asian journey at Bellevue

DISTINCTIVE diners south of Metro Manila have recently made an exciting new discovery—the Café d' Asie Asian Specialty Restaurant of The Bellevue Hotel, the first full-service business hotel in the area with international standards.

Opened early this year, the hotel with five-star appointments is nestled inside an information technology zone within the Filinvest Corporate City. It boasts of 222 deluxe and suite rooms, modern communications and banquet facilities, the latest gym equipment and services, spa treatments, Jacuzzi and infinity pool, bringing to reality the vision of ultimate comfort and convenience.

Aside from its luxurious facilities, The Bellevue Hotel serves authentic Asian dishes in Café d' Asie. The restaurant carries an Asian concept and brings signature dishes of countries from this region, as well as an international selection. Award-winning executive chef William Tay Teck Hock from Singapore offers a mouthwatering array of Asian specialties, such as Hainanese Chicken Rice; *Bak Kut Teh*, pork sparerib soup with Chinese herb served in a clay pot with fragrant rice; Satay, or grilled skewers of chicken, beef and pork garnished with rice pudding, cucumber, onion and spicy peanut sauce; spicy Wok Fried Chili Crab, fresh water crab in spicy chili sauce served with jasmine rice and Beef Kway Teow, double-boiled beef gravy with rice sheet noodles, shredded bean sprouts and coriander leaf, among many others.



On top of that, great deals are in store for patrons during lunch and dinner. For the buffet dinner, a three-plus-one promo entitles one complimentary buffet for every group of four.

The Bellevue Hotel rises as the choice of residence in the South, with its impeccable service and flavorful food offerings. Businessmen and travelers in the area need not look far, for it promises a beautiful view of luxury and comfort, a memorable experience of distinctive hotel living.

### [illegible]

MAY will definitely be a festive month for the wonderful City of Lapu-lapu as Waterfront Airport Hotel & Casino Mactan, together with the Lapu-lapu City Tourism, Cultural and Historical Affairs Commission bring you the first ever Mactan Island Festival.

On May 31, the festivities will start with a Cebu product showcase at the lobby parking of Waterfront Mactan. At 4:30 p.m., the float parade will start along the streets of Lapu-lapu City and ends back at Waterfront Mactan Lobby parking. After that, a cultural show will be held featuring known dance troupes from University of San Carlos, University of Cebu and Kadaugan sa Mactan dance troupe.

The hottest local bands, Lick and Triple Play, will kickstart the party, which will be topped off with a fireworks display. TV personality Christine Bersola will cover the event for ABS-CBN and will also be on the Waterfront Mactan float.

The Mactan Island Festival is also brought to you by Casino Filipino Mactan, Cebu Pacific Air, Basic Graphics, Nature Works, Alaxan, Diatabs, San Miguel Beer, Cebu Daily News, The Freeman, Citylight 89.9, Modern Teknika, Charlie Rhythms 101.9, and Crossover.

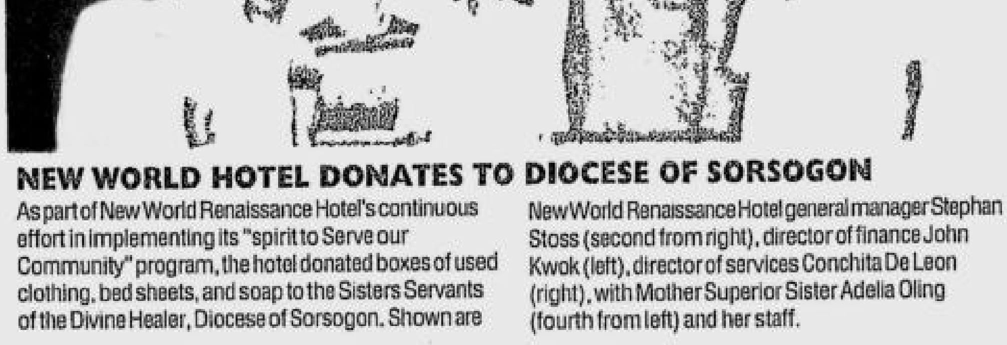
## French master chef holds cooking class at the Mandarin

GOURMANDS, budding chefs, caterers and certified foodies should not miss the rare chance for an intimate culinary interaction with master chef Bernard Guilhaudin, vice president for culinary development in Asia of Le Cordon Bleu Institute, and previously was at the helm of some of France's top Michelin-starred restaurants including the legendary Alain Chapel, the La Tour d' Argent, Vivarois, and Laurent.

Chef Guilhaudin arrives in Manila to preside over Mandarin Oriental, Manila's Journées Gastronomiques, an unforgettable journey of sublime French gastronomic pleasures at The Tivoli to be held from June 4 to 17, with the support of Le Cordon Bleu Institute and the Embassy of France, in conjunction with the French Spring 2003 in Manila.

For the two cooking classes that will be held on two consecutive Thursdays at 10 a.m. on June 5 in the Nash room, and June 12 in the Fontaine room, Guilhaudin will demonstrate the making of Crispy shrimp with Bahiannaise sauce, and Piña Colada coupe and pineapple fritters, on June 5; clam soup with essence of lime, and roasted chicken breast with spring onions and caramelized vegetables, on June 12. These creations will also be part of the three-course lunch menu that will be offered to the students at The Tivoli, at P1,500++, inclusive of the class. Like other master chefs of Le Cordon Bleu who have been with Michelin-starred restaurants and winners of prestigious competitions, Guilhaudin shares his expertise with students enrolled in the institute, considered the world leader in culinary education.

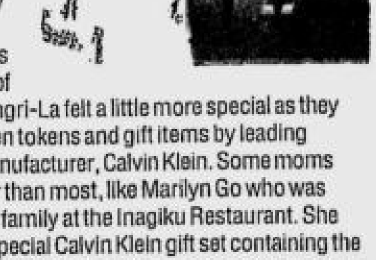
Guilhaudin also lords over a Gastronomie Gala Dinner at The Tivoli on June 10, Tuesday, which is offered at P2,900++. Other "French Spring" events at Mandarin Oriental include a display of Le Cordon Bleu products at the Mandarin Deli from June 1 to 17; Compagnie Kelemenis, a contemporary dance performance and cocktails at the Ballroom on June 11, Wednesday at 7 p.m.; an afternoon concert featuring soprano Aude Wacziarg at the Captain's Bar on June 15, Sunday accompanied by talented pianist Florian Bollot



**NEW WORLD HOTEL DONATES TO DIOCESE OF SORSOGON**

As part of New World Renaissance Hotel's continuous effort in implementing its "spirit to Serve our Community" program, the hotel donated boxes of used clothing, bed sheets, and soap to the Sisters Servants of the Divine Healer, Diocese of Sorsogon. Shown are New World Renaissance Hotel general manager Stephan Stoss (second from right), director of finance John Kwok (left), director of services Conchita De Leon (right), with Mother Superior Sister Adelia Oling (fourth from left) and her staff.

**CK FOR MOTHERS DAY**



Mothers who celebrated Mother's Day last May 11 at the various restaurants of Makati Shangri-La felt a little more special as they were all given tokens and gift items by leading perfume manufacturer, Calvin Klein. Some moms were luckier than most, like Marilyn Go who was feted by her family at the Inagiku Restaurant. She received a special Calvin Klein gift set containing the much-coveted Eternity Perfume and Hand Lotion as raffle prize. Shown is Go receiving her gift from Inagiku manager Yoshihiro Ishikawa.

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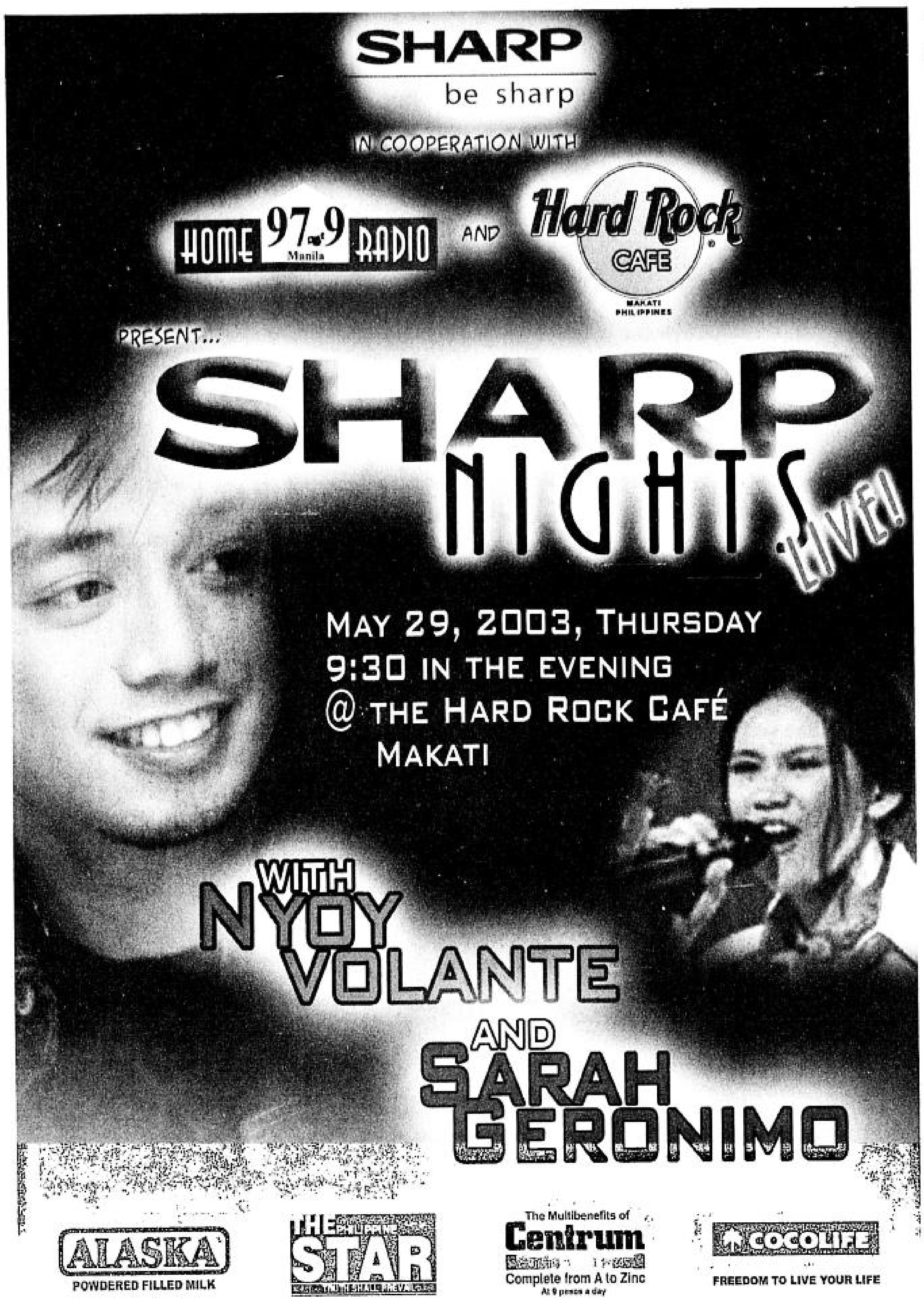
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ENTERTAINMENT
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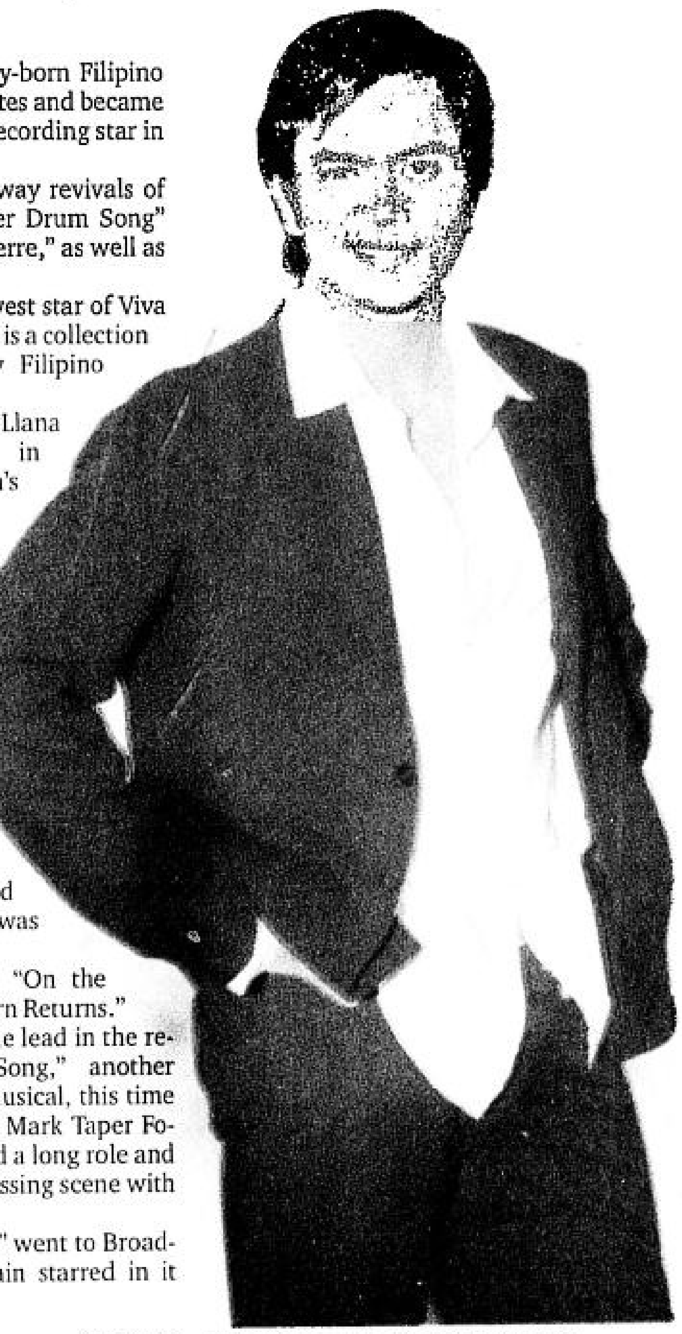
# New recording star is Pinoy from Broadway

**By Leah Salterio**



**DREAMS** come true for Jose Llana.

JOSE LLANA, the Quezon City-born Filipino who grew up in the United States and became a star on Broadway, is now a recording star in his native land.

Llana starred in the Broadway revivals of "The King and I" and "Flower Drum Song" and in "Rent" and "Martin Guerre," as well as in off-Broadway plays.

Today, Llana, 26, is the newest star of Viva Records, where his first album is a collection of contemporary classics by Filipino composers.

In 1996 when he was 19, Llana had his Broadway debut in Rodgers and Hammerstein's "The King and I," which starred Lou Diamond Phillips. Llana played the tragic character Lun Tha, the lover of Tuptim, and sang the stirring ballads "I Have Dreamed" and "We Kissed in the Shadow."

After the successful run of "The King and I," Llana was in other Broadway productions like "Rent," where he played Angel, and "Martin Guerre," where he was Guillaume.

Off-Broadway, he was in "On the Town" as Gabey, and in "Saturn Returns."

In 2001, he played the male lead in the revival of "Flower Drum Song," another Rodgers and Hammerstein musical, this time opposite Lea Salonga, at the Mark Taper Forum in Los Angeles. Llana had a long role and more songs. He even had a kissing scene with Lea.

When "Flower Drum Song" went to Broadway last October, Llana again starred in it with Lea.

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# Ford plans to invest $150M in RP

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

**FORD Motor Co. will pump in new investments of $150 million into the Philippines if Malacañang agrees to subsidize the American car giant's export of sedans assembled at its Laguna factory.**

This was disclosed by Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II who said that other Japanese vehicle assemblers were expected to announce similar CBU export programs in the Philippines during the President's state visit to Japan next month.

Roxas said the government would wrap up its vehicle export incentive program within the next 6 weeks and noted that he was hopeful the subsidies—in the form of tax credits that could be used to offset any of its income taxes—would be enough to prod Ford to give the green light to the project. Roxas said the proposed subsidy would be performance-based and would not be applicable to Ford's existing exports, which are projected to hit 15,000 units this year.

During the President's meeting with Ford's top officials in Detroit last week, Roxas said Ford gave the details of its plan to step up its ongoing CBU export program in the Philippines with the addition of an undisclosed sedan model to its shipments of Lynx sedans and Escape sport utility vehicles. Unlike its current exports that were limited to Indonesia and Thailand, the new Ford CBU model would be geared for sale to markets worldwide.

Roxas said Ford underscored the potential economic gains from its new investment such as the creation of new jobs, increase in local parts procurement, higher value-added tax revenues, and other collateral economic activity "would far exceed whatever tax credit that might be granted to Ford."

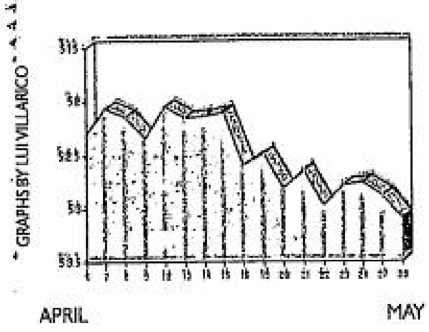
Since it made its comeback in the local automotive market in 1999 (after abandoning its Philippine plant at the height of the economic crisis in 1983), Ford has invested $200 million for its assembly plant, including P700 million it used to retool its factory for export production last year.

Earlier, Ford Motor Co. Philippines Inc. president Henry Co said the government should give between $600 and $1,000 in subsidy per vehicle to make the Philippines a viable export production platform and offset the country's small market, weak supply base and high infrastructure costs.

Roxas said several Japanese assemblers have readied their investment plans in response to the President's call to expand the Philippine automotive exports beyond parts and components. The BOI is also wooing another American vehicle assembler to make the Philippines an export base.

## INDICATORS

### CURRENCIES



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P53.10 = $1

As of 5 p.m., May 28, 2003

¥117.50 = $1

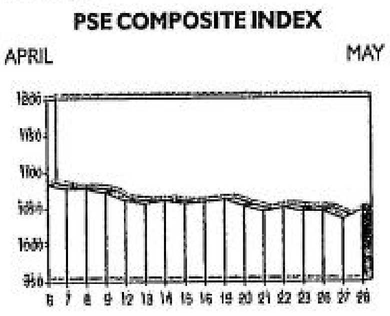
As of 5 p.m., May 28, 2003

GOLD: $364.00-364.50

per ounce Hong Kong, May 28, 2003

### STOCK MARKET

## Stocks halt 3-day slide



(See stock market report on Page B2)

SHARES snapped a three-day losing streak to end higher yesterday, helped by positive sentiment from gains in the Dow Jones on Tuesday and a run-up in local telecom stocks.

PLDT and Globe Telecom continued to gain on market expectations of sustained growth this year for the two top players in the telecom sector.

The Philippine stock Index gained 11.83 points or 1.14 percent to end at 1,047.82, rebounding from a 1.5 percent accumulated loss in the past three sessions.

"It's up on the back of the gains in Wall Street, that may have been the boost," said Terence Chan, analyst at Citisecurities Inc.

"There's not much locally to drive the market so they look overseas for cues. Other regional markets like Hong Kong is also strong."

Chan said there may also be some market speculation of a strong gross domestic product data for the first quarter. The government is set to announce the official figures today, which analysts said could set the tone for stock trading for the rest of the week.

"In general, investors should be waiting for the data. The rise (yesterday) may also be attributed to some people speculating that the figures would be positive," Chan said.

Market turnover narrowed to P266.39 million from almost P331 million on Tuesday. Gainers outpaced losers, 21 to 12, with 38 issues unchanged.

Dominant phone firm PLDT led the market higher, climbing 1.81 percent or P7.50 to P422.50 despite a 2.19 percent drop on Tuesday in its American Depositary Receipts listed in New York. *Reuters*

# Higher tax on AUVs to take effect on June 6

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance will not defer for the fourth time the new revenue regulation that will scrap the tax exemptions enjoyed by commercial vehicles such as Asian utility vehicles (AUVs) effective June 6, Finance Undersecretary Inocencio Ferrer said yesterday.

This followed the likelihood that Congress would not be able to pass a new law reforming the excise tax on automobiles on time. As far as the DOF is concerned, the new law is the only thing that can stop the controversial BIR Revenue Regulation 4-2003 (RR 4-2003) from taking effect after being deferred for three times this year.

"There is no plan to defer implementation of revenue regulation on strict interpretation of ten-seater rule," Ferrer said.

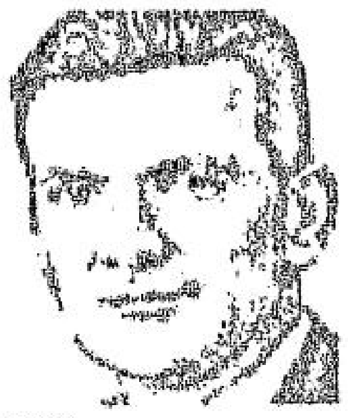
The DOF is still hoping, however, that the bill, currently pending in the Senate, would be enacted before the third deferral lapses by June 6.

RR 4-2003 was issued in February as a transitory measure to tighten the implementation of the 10-seater tax exemption pending Congress' approval of tax reforms. This regulation will impose size and space standards that are too stringent such that almost all commercial vehicles will end up losing the tax exemption.

Ferrer, the DOF's officer-in-charge while Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho was out on an official trip in the United States, said Sen. Sergio Osmeña was still asking for additional data and simulations to quantify the

HIGHER/ B3

BROWN


HEALY

# 2 First Pacific execs quit

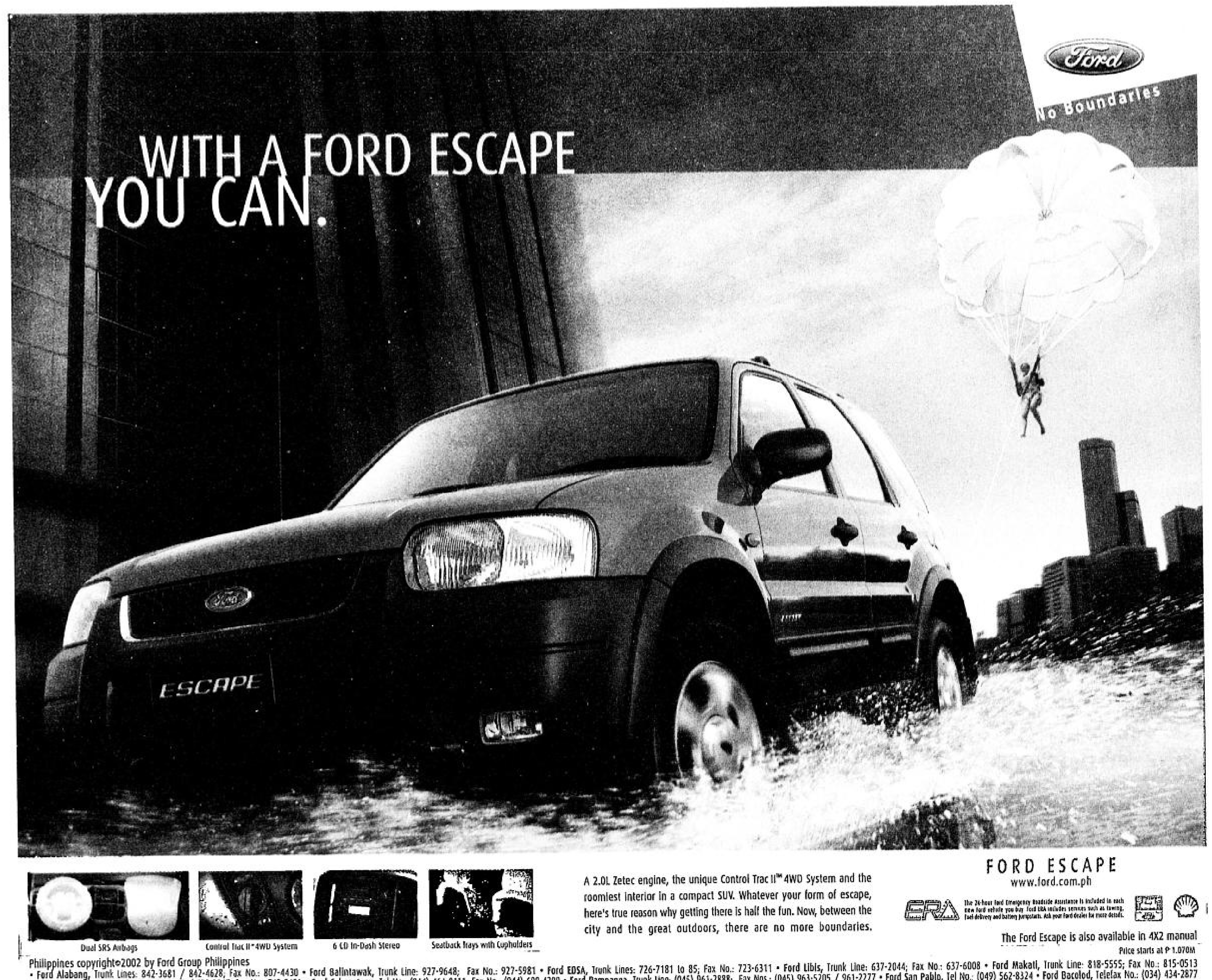
TWO top executives at conglomerate First Pacific Co. Ltd. have left the company, less than a year after its effort to sell a 24.4-percent stake in Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT) was thwarted by an internal management rift.

Michael Healy, who was chief operating officer and finance director, plus executive director Ronald Brown, left the company at the end of last month, a First Pacific spokesperson said yesterday.

Their departures follow one of the more convoluted corporate stories of 2002, when First Pacific's bid to sell its stake in the Philippines' one-time monopoly phone company was blocked by PLDT chief executive Manuel Pangilinan, who is also executive chair of First Pacific.

Pangilinan is credited with

2 FIRST/ B3



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# Full trash and confidence

**BREAKTIME**

*Conrado R. Banal III*

WHAT is this I hear? Word goes around that the one and only legendary Jancom is courting a city mayor in Metro Manila for another garbage contract.

Jancom, as you know, is that famous Australian company which bulldozed its way into a garbage incinerator contract with the administration of Kuya Eddie.

It was a questionable contract, but the almighty Supreme Court did not trash it like the contracts of Piatco and Amari. It decreed that Jancom's was a valid contract.

That was the decision in which Justice Antonio Carpio, formerly of THE firm, claimed to have inhibited himself from, because Jancom once paid him.

I mean, Jancom gave Justice Carpio money. I mean, that was when Justice Carpio still worked for Jancom. Well, as its counsel! For the same controversial contract!

* * *

ANYWAY, the Supreme Court said in its decision, which I swear Justice Carpio had nothing to do with, that while the contract was valid, it was not in full effect.

And why in the name of Kulapo was that? Because, the Supreme Court said, the contract did not have the approval of the President of the Republic.

Everybody laughed at such a legal double-talk, of course, because if a contract was valid, anybody who would not implement it, well, must be breaking the law.

* * *

THAT lawbreaker was none other than Gloriaetta herself. She declared that she would not—never—sign the Jancom contract, even if the Supreme Court ruled it was valid.

Nobody in the government and in business can say as yet why, despite the Supreme Court ruling, Gloriaetta refuses to implement a contract which is valid.

Maybe this cute administration is just not in the mood to honor any kind of valid contract whatsoever. Or it does not believe in the Supreme Court anymore.

Anyway, it seems the Australia-based Jancom intends to use the Supreme Court double-talk. If they cannot get Gloriaetta's okay, they will get it from somebody else.

That's why Jancom is making a pass at that city mayor in Metro Manila. Jancom has a good chance. The good mayor is said to be running for senator. Kachiiing!

* * *

INDEED it was a weird doctrine. A contract is valid. Obviously, therefore, even such a validity cannot force a party to the same contract to honor it. What a lot of...

And so Jancom has a valid contract. But Gloriaetta does not accept it as valid. Why? Because it is too expensive. If this is so, why is it a valid contract in the first place?

*Basta*, the Supreme Court said it is valid, *tapos*. You can't expect the Supreme Court to explain things to our level. Anyway, we are just paying for that VALID contract.

* * *

FOR the next 25 years, according to that Supreme Court-declared "valid" contract, the people of Metro Manila will have to pay Jancom only about $365 million.

Such was the cost of Jancom's garbage incinerator project in the beginning. For in the beginning, before the, ahh, "extraordinary" expenses, the cost was only $156 million.

But what was that increase to us? It was only 150 percent more. This means that the people of Metro Manila must pay Jancom only 500 percent more, all told.

I think that's fair enough! Because of the 150-percent increase in the project cost, the so-called tipping fee (charged to you) went up from $10 per truck to only $60 per.

Add to this the "hidden" cost, which went up from $60 per ton to $90 per ton, and what do you have—a charitable trust fund? What a beautiful valid contract!

* * *

WONDER of wonders, the Supreme Court did not think such an increase as funny. It was not even suspicious enough to merit a line in the decision.

And so we give our full trust and confidence in the Supreme Court to decide what is good for us when it comes to garbage. You know—all that trash!

We are the law abiding citizens of Metro Manila, unlike the troublemakers of the Clean Air Coalition or the Citizens National Network Against Poverty and Corruption.

The two organizations are attacking the Supreme Court. They say that the Supreme Court is inconsistent. They also say a lot of unprintable things.

You see, those groups are saying that, if the Supreme Court already said it was a valid contract, what can stop the next President from signing it—Edsa Tres?

* * *

ACTUALLY, those troublemakers provided me a comparison of the Jancom garbage case and the Piatco Naia 3 case.

No, they say, the groups are not defending Piatco. They are questioning the Jancom decision. Topping their comparative list was the BOT law.

Piatco violated only one of its provisions, based on the Supreme Court ruling, while Jancom violated six. No contest. Clearly, six versus one made it a valid contract.

* * *

NOW the people of Metro Manila, I think, really do not care about any legal technicality. All they care about is, well, are we ever going to solve our garbage problem or not?

The Supreme Court did not only declare the Jancom contract as valid. It also effectively gave the Australia group Jancom a first-rate monopoly.

In the rush bidding, you see, the administration of Kuya Eddie wanted a contract for the disposal of some 3,000 tons of garbage every day.

But today Metro Manila generates about 6,000 to 8,000 tons of garbage every day. You have a "VALID" contract for 3,000 tons. What do we do with the rest?

Nothing, according to the Supreme Court. Its ruling prevented the MMDA from contracting other groups for the rest of the garbage. I tell you, we are going to smell.

* * *

ABS-CBN already beat GMA to it, but Jimmy Duavit, EVP of GMA, thinks it is going to be a major profit center for his network.

GMA is going international. This ABS-CBN did several lifetimes ago. In fact, ABS-CBN chair Gabby Lopez is already going to Europe and the Middle East.

Cable television, Sapatos ni Cion, I am talking of cable. Our two biggest networks are going to fight over the Pinoy market in the United States for cable soap and news programs.

Jimmy Duavit tells me that it is a profitable market. Apparently, Filipinos in the United States hunger for news from home, not to mention social relevant programs like soap.

* * *

ANYWAY, Duavit says that sending television programs to the United States does not cost much. He thinks that most of the expenses will be incurred in marketing.

Thus, no other expansion can beat the cost-benefit analysis of the US cable plan. In other words, GMA can earn a lot more by spending a little more.

In the past quarter, GMA already beat ABS-CBN in terms of profitability by the hundreds of millions. It seems GMA has the happier stockholders.

What's funny here is, well, ABS-CBN is even the listed company, and GMA is not. In short, only a few people, i.e. GMA stockholders, are happy.

## MARIVELES GRAINS TERMINAL

# ATI, SMC seen to close deal soon

**By Elena R. Torrijos**

ASIAN Terminals Inc. is seen to finalize an agreement to transfer the control of a modern grains terminal in Mariveles, Bataan, to San Miguel Corp. by August or September this year.

ATI executive chair and president Richard Barclay said that negotiations with SMC were "still continuing" but the "timing" was a problem.

"We will have more news in the next three to four months," Barclay said. The sale of the terminal was earlier expected to have been completed in the first quarter of this year.

Barclay said the sale should bring in more than P2 billion for the publicly listed port operator.

Earlier, SMC had reportedly offered to buy the terminal for P2.15 billion.

The Mariveles terminal is considered the Philippines' most modern grains handling facility. It moved 5 million tons of grains in the first nine months of last year or 22 percent higher than the year-ago level.

An agreement signed by ATI and the Philippine Ports Authority gave ATI the right to develop and operate a bulk grains terminal in Mariveles for 15 years through 2007, renewable for another 15 years.

Barclay said earlier that proceeds from the sale of the Mariveles terminal would be used by ATI to finance its ongoing modernization program in South Harbor.

Last year, SMC chair and chief executive Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr. said the acquisition of the grains terminal would improve the company's agribusiness operations.

SMC officials have also said that the Mariveles deal was in line with the food and beverage conglomerate's objective to be a logistics and distribution powerhouse in the Asia-Pacific region.

The terminal has an average depth of 14.5 meters and has a discharge rate of more than 8,000 tons a day. *Elena R. Torrijos*

# GMA-7 posts 77% increase in revenue

GMA Network Inc. continued its strong performance in April as gross revenue for the month rose 77 percent and net income rose 301 percent from year-ago level.

The April results boosted expectations that the media group would exceed its projected 2003 profit of P640 million.

In a statement yesterday, GMA said gross revenue reached P524 million versus last year's P296 million while net income shot up to P113 million from P28 million.

GMA said that its gross revenue for the first four months of the year went up 68 percent to P694 million from year-ago level.

The network's cumulative net income in the first four months of this year also soared to P277 million, surpassing its net income in the first nine months of last year.

GMA also said that earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization for April increased by 135 percent to P223 million from P95 million. This brought cumulative Ebitda to P620 million or 104 percent higher than last year's level.

At a press briefing last April, GMA senior vice president for corporate services Felipe Yalong said the network was expected to post a profit of P640 million this year.

In a statement, Yalong said that with the strong results in April, the company would likely surpass its full-year target.

To sustain the growth that it has been experiencing since last year, Yalong said GMA would continue to launch new and innovative programs, particularly in the prime time slot.

The network also plans to go into the international market this year. *Elena R. Torrijos*

# VMC needs another ₱280M in fresh equity

**By Doris C. Dumlao**

VICTORIAS Milling Corp., the country's biggest sugar mill, may seek another P280 million in fresh equity infusion on top of the P300 million recently pumped into the company by tycoon Lucio Tan's hard liquor unit Tanduay Holdings Inc.

Omar Mier, VMC chair and executive vice president of Philippine National Bank, said the sugar milling firm might have to increase its capital expenditures to balance its refining and milling capacity.

In an interview, Mier said VMC recently hired a Thai consultant, Sutech, to map out the best capital expenditure program for the company.

While VMC recently completed the P300-million capital infusion required by its rehabilitation plan through a loan (convertible into equity) from Tanduay, Mier said the company might need to spend another P280 million.

"We have to decide whether to increase our capacity to P15,000 or P18,000 tons a day. That's a major expenditure," Mier said.

"There's an imbalance between the refining and milling capacity. We have a refining capacity that is much more than our milling capacity," he said.

While the VMC management has made its own study on the proposed rebalancing of capacity, Mier said Sutech, an expert in the sugar business, was hired to verify the strategy.

"We want to make sure that we're making the right decisions," he said.

The proposed rebalancing, Mier said, would not require the establishment of new plants.

"We"ll just balance because what's happening is that we can't fully utilize the refining capacity and doing that will be very costly for the company," Mier said.

In view of the current shortage of refined sugar, he said the government might prod companies like VMC to boost their refining capacity.

"Our study is telling us that if we're going to do that, we're going to lose money because we're going to start producing more refined sugar. It will be expensive for us," he said.

If Sutech validates that VMC would have to spend P580 million, Mier said the company would have to get another P280 million.

"We do not know yet where to get it. We can get it from shareholders. We can get it from a bank or a new investor," Mier said.

Asked whether Tanduay might be willing to increase its loan to VMC, Mier said: "From their point of view, P300 million is enough. They want to make sure it is used properly."

Sutech, which had done a study for VMC in the past, is now bringing in its people to start auditing the company's plant and identify other reforms.

## INTEREST RATES

May 28, 2003-MART1 Rates

| Benchmark Interest Rates | MART1 28-May-03 (%) | MART1 27-May-03 (%) |
|---|---|---|
| 1 Month | 7.1058 | 7.1154 |
| 3 Months | 7.0788 | 7.125 |
| 6 Months | 7.6212 | 7.6327 |
| 1 Year | 8.1625 | 8.3354 |
| 2 Years | 8.8596 | 8.9865 |
| 3 Years | 9.7583 | 9.9563 |
| 4 Years | 10.3479 | 10.6083 |
| 5 Years | 10.8346 | 11.0481 |
| 7 Years | 11.3709 | 11.5833 |
| 10 Years | 11.5135 | 11.6981 |
| 20 Years | 12.1225 | 12.225 |
| 25 Years | 12.7673 | 13.1635 |

SOURCE: MART/BLOOMBERG

## PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of May 28, 2003)

| STOCKS | OPEN | HIGH | LOW | CLOSE | VOLUME |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES** | | | | | |
| **BANKS** | | | | | |
| Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc. | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 10,000 |
| Banco de Oro Univ. Bank | 15 | 15 | 15 | 15 | 17,900 |
| Bank of the Phil. Islands | 34 | 36 | 34 | 36 | 1,353,600 |
| China Banking Corp. | 695 | 695 | 695 | 695 | 100 |
| Citystate Savings Bank | 14.5 | 14.5 | 14.5 | 14.5 | 2,000 |
| Equitable PCI Bank Inc. | 24 | 24.25 | 24 | 24.25 | 32,000 |
| Metropolitan Bank & Trust | 25 | 25.5 | 25 | 25 | 337,800 |
| Philippine National Bank | 22.5 | 22.75 | 22.5 | 22.75 | 41,500 |
| Security Bank Corp. | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 140,000 |
| Union Bank of the Phil. | 17.5 | 17.5 | 17.25 | 17.25 | 22,000 |
| **FINANCIAL SERVICES** | | | | | |
| Sun Life Financial Serv. | 1020 | 1025 | 1020 | 1025 | 410 |
| **COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL** | | | | | |
| **COMMUNICATION** | | | | | |
| ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. | 11.5 | 11.75 | 11.5 | 11.75 | 5,200 |
| Digital Telecom Phils Inc. | 0.67 | 0.7 | 0.67 | 0.69 | 2,320,000 |
| Globe Telecom Inc. | 565 | 570 | 565 | 570 | 36,760 |
| Island Info and Tech Inc. | 0.038 | 0.038 | 0.038 | 0.038 | 2,000,000 |
| ISM Communications Corp. | 0.017 | 0.018 | 0.017 | 0.018 | 600,000 |
| Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp. | 3.1 | 3.2 | 3.1 | 3.2 | 24,000 |
| Pilipino Tel. Corp. | 0.29 | 0.29 | 0.28 | 0.28 | 640,000 |
| Phil. Long Dis Tel Co. | 417.5 | 425 | 417.5 | 422.5 | 142,320 |
| Ivantage Corp. | 0.38 | 0.38 | 0.38 | 0.38 | 150,000 |
| Philweb Corp. | 0.012 | 0.012 | 0.012 | 0.012 | 600,000 |
| **POWER & ENERGY** | | | | | |
| Manila Electric Co. A | 6.1 | 6.1 | 6.1 | 6.1 | 65,000 |
| Manila Electric Co. B | 8.9 | 8.9 | 8.9 | 8.9 | 401,000 |
| Petron Corp. | 1.86 | 1.86 | 1.84 | 1.84 | 2,408,000 |
| Trans-Asia Oil and Energy | 0.91 | 0.91 | 0.91 | 0.91 | 400,000 |
| **TRANSPORTATION SERVICES** | | | | | |
| Asian Terminals Inc. | 1.44 | 1.52 | 1.44 | 1.5 | 723,000 |
| Int'l Container Term'l Sv | 2.42 | 2.42 | 2.42 | 2.42 | 51,000 |
| Negros Navigation Co.Inc. | 0.45 | 0.45 | 0.41 | 0.41 | 60,000 |
| **CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS** | | | | | |
| Engineering Equip. Inc. | 0.43 | 0.43 | 0.42 | 0.42 | 820,000 |
| Union Cement Corp. | 0.71 | 0.71 | 0.71 | 0.71 | 100,000 |
| **FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO** | | | | | |
| Alaska Milk Corp. | 2.46 | 2.46 | 2.46 | 2.46 | 60,000 |
| Ginebra San Miguel Inc. | 25.5 | 25.5 | 24.5 | 25 | 388,400 |
| Jollibee Foods Corp. | 15.75 | 16 | 15.75 | 16 | 167,000 |
| San Miguel Corp. A | 54 | 54.5 | 54 | 54.5 | 22,700 |
| San Miguel Corp. B | 63.5 | 63.5 | 63.5 | 63.5 | 37,600 |
| **HOLDING FIRMS** | | | | | |
| Ayala Corp. | 4.05 | 4.1 | 4.05 | 4.1 | 1,880,000 |
| Aboitiz Equity Ventures | 2.3 | 2.32 | 2.3 | 2.3 | 33,000 |
| APC Group Inc. | 0.065 | 0.065 | 0.065 | 0.065 | 200,000 |
| Alcorn Gold Res. Corp. | 0.005 | 0.0055 | 0.005 | 0.0055 | 15,000,000 |
| ATN Holdings Inc. | 1.68 | 1.72 | 1.64 | 1.72 | 380,000 |
| Boulevard Holdings Inc. | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 100,000 |
| Benpres Holdings Corp. | 0.24 | 0.25 | 0.23 | 0.25 | 6,480,000 |
| A Brown Company Inc. | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 20,000 |
| Basic Consolidated Inc. | 0.07 | 0.07 | 0.07 | 0.07 | 600,000 |
| First Phil Hldgs Corp. | 7.4 | 7.4 | 7.3 | 7.3 | 92,000 |
| J.G. Summit Holdings, Inc. | 1.42 | 1.44 | 1.42 | 1.44 | 55,000 |
| Megaworld Corp. | 0.56 | 0.56 | 0.56 | 0.56 | 880,000 |
| Metro Pacific Corp. | 0.165 | 0.165 | 0.165 | 0.165 | 300,000 |
| Music Corp. | 0.3 | 0.31 | 0.28 | 0.28 | 250,000 |
| Prime Orion Phils. Inc. | 0.1 | 0.105 | 0.1 | 0.105 | 200,000 |
| Waterfront Phils. Inc. | 0.26 | 0.26 | 0.26 | 0.26 | 10,000 |
| **MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING** | | | | | |
| Cen Azucar De Tarlac | 1.5 | 1.5 | 1.5 | 1.5 | 20,000 |
| Mabuhay Vinyl Corp. | 1.68 | 1.76 | 1.66 | 1.74 | 219,000 |
| SPI Technologies Inc. | 16.75 | 16.75 | 16.75 | 16.75 | 152,800 |
| **HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES** | | | | | |
| Belle Corp. | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 230,000 |
| Mondragon Intl Phils, Inc. | 0.24 | 0.24 | 0.24 | 0.24 | 30,000 |
| Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc. | 0.38 | 0.38 | 0.34 | 0.34 | 690,000 |
| **BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS** | | | | | |
| ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr) | 11.75 | 11.75 | 11.75 | 11.75 | 13,000 |
| PLDT (10% Pref) Series W | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 1,000 |
| PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 1,000 |
| **PROPERTY** | | | | | |
| Ayala Land Inc. | 4.9 | 5 | 4.9 | 4.95 | 8,714,000 |
| Cyber Bay Corp. | 0.11 | 0.11 | 0.11 | 0.11 | 410,000 |
| Filinvest Land Inc. | 0.8 | 0.8 | 0.79 | 0.79 | 3,350,000 |
| Fil-Estate Land Inc. | 0.14 | 0.14 | 0.14 | 0.14 | 100,000 |
| SM Prime Holdings Inc. | 4.7 | 4.7 | 4.6 | 4.6 | 7,504,000 |
| **MINING** | | | | | |
| Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B | 0.205 | 0.205 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 500,000 |
| Omico Corp. | 0.0038 | 0.0042 | 0.0038 | 0.0042 | 18,000,000 |
| Philex Mining Corp. A | 0.26 | 0.26 | 0.26 | 0.26 | 80,000 |
| **OIL** | | | | | |
| Oriental Pet. & Min. A | 0.0024 | 0.0024 | 0.0024 | 0.0024 | 3,000,000 |
| Oriental Pet. & Min. B | 0.0024 | 0.0024 | 0.0024 | 0.0024 | 3,000,000 |
| Sinophil Corp. | 0.027 | 0.027 | 0.026 | 0.026 | 2,700,000 |

| | SHARES | VALUE(P) |
|---|---|---|
| Bank & Fin Svc | 1,957,310 | 60,933,750.00 |
| Comm'l & Ind'l | 40,058,780 | 124,582,775.00 |
| PRO | 20,078,000 | 80,522,850.00 |
| Mining | 18,580,000 | 191,500.00 |
| OIL | 8,700,000 | 86,300.00 |
| GRAND TOTALS: | 89,374,090 | 266,317,175.00 |
| **AVERAGES** | | |
| Bank & Fin Svc | 351.79 | UP 9.68 |
| Comm'l & Ind'l | 1,549.99 | UP 9.41 |
| PRO | 427.56 | UP 4.35 |
| Mining | 1,167.88 | DOWN 8.69 |
| OIL | 1.11 | UNCH 0.00 |
| All Shares Index | 673.78 | UP 2.67 |
| Composite | 1,047.82 | UP 11.83 |

NO. OF ADVANCES: 21; NO. OF DECLINES: 12; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 38; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 71; NO. OF TRADES: 1,119

## DISCLOSURES

UNIVERSAL Rightfield Property Holdings Inc. moved its annual stockholders' meeting from May 30 to Aug. 1 with record date on July 19.

* * *

ELECTED directors of Asian Terminals Inc. were Richard Barclay, Eusebio Tanco, John Buckley, Richard Setchell, Colin Childs, Nilo Peña, Remy Tigulo, Plaridel Garcia, Arturo Lopez and Ramon Atayde. The company declared cash dividends of P0.16 per share in favor of stockholders of record as of June 26.

* * *

ELECTED directors of Macondray Plastics Inc. were Martin Ignacio Lorenzo, Jose Castro Jr., Tomas Agustin Lorenzo, Regina H-Davila, Jose Paulo Lorenzo, Lourdes Beatrice Benitez and Eric Manalang. The company declared cash dividends of P0.19 per share in favor of stockholders of record as of June 6 and will be payable on or before June 20.

* * *

ELECTED directors of Seafront Resources Corp. were Leonardo Alejandrino, Helen Dee, Nicasio Alcantara, Alfonso Yuchengco Jr., Rizalino Navarro, Albert Yuchengco, Milagros Reyes, Susanne Santos and Yvonne Yuchengco.

* * *

EURO-Med Laboratories Philippines Inc. declared a 15.942-percent stock dividend in favor of stockholders of record as of June 5 and will be distributed on July 2.

* * *

ELECTED directors of Philippine National Bank were Francisco Dizon, Lorenzo Tan, Domingo Chua, Feliciano Miranda Jr., Vicente Panlilio, Santiago Cua Jr., Alejandro Roces, Washington Sycip, Lucio Tan, Ricardo Tan and Macario Te. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

## CURRENCIES

| May 28, 2003<br>Country | Unit | Euro Equivalent | Dollar Equivalent | Peso Equivalent |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| United States | Dollar | 0.846095 | 1.000000 | 52.769000 |
| Japan | Yen | 0.007215 | 0.008527 | 0.450000 |
| United Kingdom | Pound | 1.386073 | 1.638200 | 86.446200 |
| Hongkong | Dollar | 0.108495 | 0.128230 | 6.766600 |
| Switzerland | Franc | 0.657417 | 0.777001 | 41.001600 |
| Canada | Dollar | 0.614671 | 0.726480 | 38.335600 |
| Singapore | Dollar | 0.491344 | 0.580720 | 30.644000 |
| Australia | Dollar | 0.557485 | 0.658892 | 34.769100 |
| Bahrain | Dinar* | 2.244404 | 2.652661 | 139.978300 |
| Saudi Arabia | Rial | 0.225632 | 0.266674 | 14.072100 |
| Brunei | Dollar | 0.489922 | 0.579039 | 30.555300 |
| Indonesia | Rupiah | 0.000104 | 0.000123 | 0.006500 |
| Thailand | Baht | 0.020324 | 0.024021 | 1.267600 |
| UAE | Dirham | 0.230393 | 0.272301 | 14.369100 |
| Euro | Euro | 1.000000 | 1.181900 | 62.367700 |
| Argentina | Peso | 0.295837 | 0.349650 | 18.450700 |
| Brazil | REAL | 0.280349 | 0.331345 | 17.484700 |
| Denmark | Kroner | 0.134673 | 0.159170 | 8.399200 |
| India | Rupee | 0.018098 | 0.021390 | 1.128700 |
| Malaysia | Ringgit | 0.222686 | 0.263193 | 13.888400 |
| Mexico | New Peso | 0.081277 | 0.096061 | 5.069000 |
| New Zealand | Dollar | 0.493522 | 0.583294 | 30.779800 |
| Norway | Kroner | 0.126771 | 0.149831 | 7.906400 |
| Pakistan | Rupee | 0.014704 | 0.017379 | 0.917100 |
| South Africa | Rand | 0.105038 | 0.124145 | 6.551000 |
| Korea | Won | 0.000706 | 0.000835 | 0.044100 |
| Sweden | Kroner | 0.108928 | 0.128742 | 6.793600 |
| Syria | Pound | 0.020146 | 0.023810 | 1.256400 |
| Taiwan | Nt Dollar | 0.024454 | 0.028902 | 1.525100 |
| Venezuela | Bolivar | 0.000531 | 0.000627 | 0.033100 |

# Gov't sees $320-M investments from US call center companies

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry is expecting at least $320 million in new investments over the near term from American call centers and business process outsourcing (BPO) providers.

Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II said the projected investments were based on the commitments made by 4 US companies—Prudential Financial, Convergys, Western Wats and Vision- X Inc.—during the New York leg of the President's US trip last week.

Roxas reported that Prudential Financial has tapped Filipino call center provider 77Global for the American financial services giant's pilot BPO and call center operations in the Philippines. The project will serve the needs of Prudential's corporate technology services division, which is currently manned by 60,000.

Roxas said the company's recent merger with a securities broker has opened up potentials for further BPO and call center services demand. Roxas did not report the specific investment commitment of Prudential Life.

Roxas said that Convergys, the world's biggest call center operator, would pump in P500 million for the establishment of two call centers in Makati and Pasig and it planned to open up another branch in the Philippines with Cebu and the Subic and Clark economic zones as potential sites. Roxas said Convergys plans to increase its manpower from 1,000 to 10,000 employees over the next two to three years.

Roxas said the owners of the Western Wats, Ron and Teri Lindorf, have disclosed their plans of investing an initial P150 million in a call center facility in Cebu to complement the Utah-based company's service data collection.

Roxas also reported that Vision-X CEO Eva Wong had confirmed her firm's P50-million call center project in the Philippines which would employ 4,800 within three years to help the company serve the growing requirements of its clients, which include American telecommunications giant AT&T.

The Department of Trade and Industry is projecting a doubling in contact center capacity in the country from 15,000 to 30,000 seats this year as it intensifies its program to attract more American firms to establish some of their business processes in the country.

# NSC creditors to hire financial adviser

By Doris C. Dumlao

CREDITOR-BANKS of National Steel Corp. will hire a financial adviser to help the cash-strapped steel firm pick the best investor within the next six months.

Omar Mier, executive vice president of Philippine National Bank, which has a P5.6-billion loan exposure to NSC, said the chief executive officers of the steel firm's creditor-banks met two weeks ago and voted to hire a financial adviser and speed up the entry of a new investor needed in NSC's rehabilitation.

As NSC has received various offers from potential white knights, Mier said the proposals would have to be scrutinized, although the selection would not necessarily be done through a bidding process.

Among the groups interested to invest in NSC are Chinese Min-Metals Zhejiang International Trading Co., China International Iron and Steel Investment Corp., French group Bhicknapahari, Hong Kong-based Bel Trade Investment Holdings, and UK-based Tael Capital.

"We really don't have the technical expertise to evaluate the right price. As such, our priority is to hire a financial adviser to evaluate the proposals," Mier said, noting that the creditors now have a shortlist of potential advisers.

"We have a timetable that in six months' time, the new investor must be in place, in other words, hire them (financial adviser) and choose," he said.

# Cebu Pacific not considering new regional routes

By Abigail L. Ho

GOKONGWEI-OWNED Cebu Pacific Air is not considering any new regional routes as it is still recovering from the blow it suffered from the SARS outbreak.

Cebu Pacific president Lance Gokongwei told reporters that the SARS scare brought down the airline's regional load factor as less people traveled for fear of being exposed to the SARS virus.

"It's difficult for our regional operations but we're still flying," he said.

The SARS outbreak left the aviation industry reeling, especially Asian carriers, as the virus was said to have originated from China and rapidly spread through Hong Kong and Singapore.

Cebu Pacific flies to Hong Kong daily and to Seoul in South Korea twice a week from Manila and four times a week from Cebu.

Gokongwei said the Manila-Seoul route was not hit badly by the SARS scare as load factors remained quite stable.

"It was temporarily affected by the SARS (scare) but we're still doing well. We're still doing six flights a week. We'll see how we do in July because that's Korea's peak season (for travel)," he said.

Cebu Pacific also used to service the Manila-Singapore route daily but ceased operations in December last year due to low load factors.

Gokongwei said the airline was not likely to begin plying the Manila-Singapore route again in the near future, especially now that the company was still trying to regain its composure after being hit by the SARS scare.

"We didn't make money in December, so how much more now?" he said.

He added that everything related to additional regional flights were at a standstill at this point as the SARS scare had yet to completely die down.

He noted, however, that domestic tourism picked up quite a bit because of the SARS outbreak in other parts of the world.

Cebu Pacific maintains its position as a low-fare airline.

# Higher tax on AUVs . . .

From page B1

effect of the bill that would introduce an excise tax on AUVs.

Aside from lifting the tax exemption on AUVs, the new law on automobile taxation will shift the tax base to manufacturer's value from engine displacement.

"Sen. Osmeña was ready (as early as Tuesday) to complete his interpellation, but this didn't happen because of flood and storm - force majeure," he said. Nevertheless, he said the DOF was hoping there would still be enough time to pass the new law.

# 2 First Pacific execs quit

From page B1

helping build the business empire of the Indonesian Salim family, which controls First Pacific.

A source said Healy and Brown backed the proposal for First Pacific to sell off all of its Philippine assets—PLDT and the group's main property interest, Fort Bonifacio Global City.

But Pangilinan was adamant about keeping PLDT, which posted a 58-percent surge year-on-year in first-quarter net income.

Pangilinan agreed to sell most of the First Pacific group's interests in Bonifacio Land Corp., which was developing a 150-hectare former army base into a prime residential and business district.

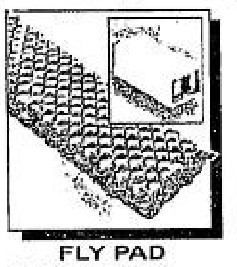
Brown and Healy remain on the board of directors.

First Pacific spokeswoman Sara Cheung said Rebecca Brown, who was executive vice president and the firm's former spokesperson, had also left the Hong Kong group. Rebecca Brown is not related to Ronald Brown.

Cheung said Paul Wallace had been named First Pacific's chief finance officer, a post he held in the company between 1994 and 1997.

Besides its PLDT stake, First Pacific holds 48 percent of Indonesia-based noodle maker PT Indofood Sukses Makmur.

*Reuters*



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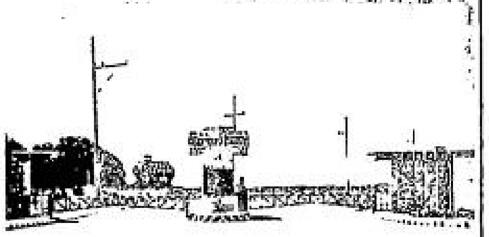
SM SOUTHMALL Basement 800-40-93
ROBINSONS GALLERIA Basement 635-5061



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Prices are subject to change upon initial development

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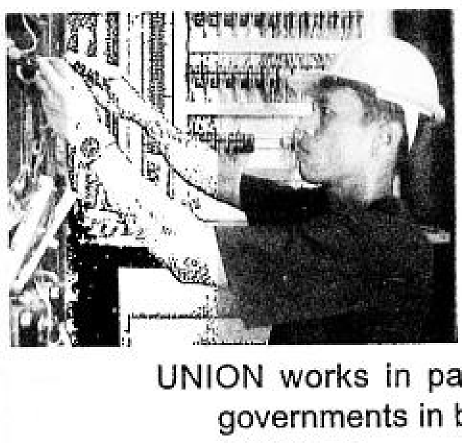

We care for our communities...

UNION is committed to Sustainable Development and plays an active role in all of the communities where it operates.

Recently, the DENR-Mines and Geo-Sciences Bureau (MGB) approved the five-year Social Development and Management Program (SDMP) of all of our four cement plants. This is a key milestone in our unwavering commitment to be a responsible partner in progress of the people who live and work in our communities.

UNION addresses three major programs to live out our social responsibility agenda: education, livelihood and infrastructure.

We partner with local schools to improve their teaching facilities, and run scholarship programs to give children of marginalized families an opportunity to better their lot in life.

We continuously train and assist residents in implementing livelihood programs, such as sewing for women, sea urchin culture, food processing, and vocational training.

UNION works in partnership with NGOs and local governments in building affordable houses for the homeless.

Holcim Group
UNION

Union Cement Corporation
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Rockwell Center, Makati City 1211
Philippines
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Fax +63 (02) 870 0300

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☎ 8114361 ☎ 8114370 ☎ 8114012 Fax 8925570
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☎ 912-9008-11 Fax 912-9011
SM MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY
☎ 6350219 ☎ 6872354 ☎ 6872366 Fax 6350220
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03 TEENGUYZ 7465532

Akhin Thai Mla 8347357 Cbu 2532597 Bguio 448-7184

GIGOLO'S 09186579092

H'SOME ATHLETES 8337361

JAMES MALE 24HRS SERVICE 8518650 ; 0920-6274243

JV MALE MASSUERS 24hrs 09202387878 ;7130279

MALE 16 PALANAN 7320659

MALE MASSEURS 8525521

MASS M/F 0919-2714842 ANJO

MODELO'S #277-9257

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MAIDS FROM DAVAO CAGAYAN 7429329 7830738 7329842

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LIPAT BAHAY Tel. 805-3362

## REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

### COMML/RESDL

**LAS PINAS**

2 STY # BR 1.75M 285-61-29

### HOUSE & LOT

**LAS PINAS**

LAS PINAS / BACOOR
2-4 Brs., 1-3 T&B-2 Storey
Only P5,000.00 to Reserve/
No Loan Requirement
872-1340/872-3969

**MARIKINA**

Gnhts now4br 2.2M 9487112

**PASIG**

Kawilihan Duplex P5.5M, TH P4.8M, VV2 P18.5M, 671-4421 • 0917-5279121

PARKWOOD SUBD. 4br 4tb Maids / Driver Qtr LA-302m² FA-360m² P13.8M 0917-8985589

**QUEZON CITY**

ACROPOLIS 423m² East 3BR+Den P17M 6337601-03

★St. Ignatius Vill,cor lot 6br 4tb P14M 09192221766

★White Plains 3yrs old 3-sty 1st class materials 412-1825

**RIZAL**

Antipolo Nayong Silangan 346m² 3BR Call 634-1212

**OTHER AREAS**

P60/DAY BAHAY-AGAD MBUHAY CTY 0919-8804780

**LAGUNA**

Laguna Bel Air-No down ! 3/4Br 35%discт T896-0528

Tpark 3T/mo 09167574409

### CONDO/TWNHSE

**MAKATI**

1.6M C5 Nr The Fort
12T/mo. or 3Yrs No Int. or 10% D.P. LIPAT AGAD 3-5BR 15min Fr Mktl 0917-8169849

**PARANAQUE**

Ayala nr Airport 889T
10% DP P9T/MO studio - 3BR 20 mins fr Makati / Alabang Across SM Sucat 0917-8313226

**PASIG**

ORTIGAS CTR 1BR CONDO P3M-4M 4121825

**QUEZON CITY**

2BR CUBAO 1.2M 9120679

CUBAO P1.4M 9132224

### LOT

**MARIKINA**

Marikina City 347m² more or less 09176206021

## REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

### COMML/RESDL

Life's a stroll at Glenwood Park.

- 5 mins. from Calamba Exit
- Near St. James School and soon-to-rise SM Mall
- With clubhouse, pool, playground, tennis and basketball courts

*As low as P10,000/month*

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PHILTOWN
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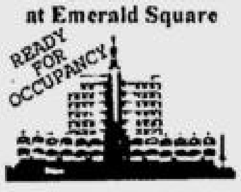
### CONDO/TWNHSE

**QUEZON CITY**

The TOWER at Emerald Square



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922-4464/913-7632

### LOT

**RIZAL**

Antipolo,Circumferential Rd com'l 216m² 0917-8102903

**OTHER PROVINCIAL**

No Down 80m² Up Cheap 928-2067

**CAVITE**

300T CAVITE LOT T# 5237683

**PROVINCIAL**

★TAGAYTAY BEST LOTS ★ Along H-way low dp/mo. 240m²-up nr Taal Vista, Tofle 658-8704

### OFFICE SPACE

ANTEL OFC 80M² 3.5M w/2 carpark 4121825

JOLBEE PLZA 109.19m² @250hi-floor 412-1825

### FARM/FISHPEN/ RAWLANDS

PIGGERY FARM STA. MARIA BULACAN Complete Amenities W/ECC 2,884m² 4M 9522109

★SUBIC back of CT Hall 46has.@200/m² 0919221766

## REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

### COMML/RESDL

WOODLANDS
Calamba, Laguna

- First class subd. in Calamba, Laguna
- View of Mt. Makiling & Laguna Bay
- Amenities to include clubhouse, pool, playground, basketball court
- 130 sqm average lot area

*As low as P5,000/month*

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## REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

### COMMERCIAL/ RESIDENTIAL

**BAGUIO**

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### CONDO/TWNHSE

**MAKATI**

4BR Condo For Lease Rizal Twr, Rockwell Makati Call 8982416 or email:plam1a@yahoo.com

BNEW MKTI CONDO-11K
OXFORD SUITES FF
ELEGANT W/ NICE VIEW
10MINS.FR.ROCKWELL
NR BUENDIA & MKTI AVE.
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0917-7940078

BNEW MKTI RES CONDO
WEST OF AYALA
Gil Puyat Ave. Cor. Ayala
37-140 sqm 11K-55K
750-0127•752-2580

CLASSICA TOWER-123BR
Salcedo Village, Makati
43-157m² 18-70K,UF/FF
750-0127*752-2580*848-7388

**PASIG**

★MegaPlz 2BR Condo FF 4121825

### APARTMENT

**PARANAQUE**

Conc. Up & Dwn w/H2O garage T8284410 P15T, 6.5T & 4.5T

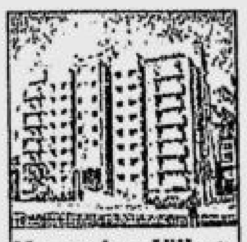
**QUEZON CITY**

1BR Kalpnan 6815834/7276728

78D 11th Av Cubao 4272560

## REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

### COMML/RESDL



Manggahan Village

- At the heart of Pasig City
- Bldg. 3 soon to open
- With existing clubhouse, pool, and function room
- 2 BR, 2 TB – 62 sqm
- 3 BR, 2 TB – 70 sqm

*As low as P8,000/month*

*For inquiries, please call: 637-8936 / 637-8919*

*We also welcome brokers!*

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### OFFICE SPACE

OFFICE SPACE RENT/SALE
RUFINO TOWER
Ayala Ave. Makati City
Unit 26B, 212.45,
w/ partitions, 2 carpark
Tel. # 899-3456 to 59

## REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

### APARTMENT

**QUEZON CITY**

Cubao Lady P3.5 9124428

ROXAS DISTRICT 2BR Rdy for Occupancy 371-3237 Ren

### ROOM & BOARD

Ladies Nr Ayala 895-5440

Proj4,JP Rizal w/tb 9420612

### BEDSPACE

BEST 4 MALE UA & P Students & Ortigas Execs 0917-8341169

DORM IN A CONDO 4.5K
BURGUNDY WESTBAY TWR
V.CRUZ NR LASALLE/ST.SCHO
ALSO AVAIL. 4 RENT:
1,2,3 BR/COML UNITS
752-2580/750-0127
0917-8435845

Resdn'l/Furnish 2PerRm Male Single Bed T897-3770

### BUSINESS RENTAL

PTAMO nr BUENDIA 1st Class bldg 129/148/185m² 8903461 loc 34 or 19 ofc hrs

### RESORT LEASE/ RENT

LOBO BATANGAS 8315945

### LOAN & MORTGAGE

1.4%MONTHLY=8976644 to 46
LAS PINAS=8736236 & 4098
QC=3730239 to 40
CEBU CITY=(032)3437839 & 40

2% W/O TAKING CAR 3677523/24

BUSINESS/SALARY 8422788

### OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT

IBM PLAZA EASTWOOD LIBIS QC 0917-8133010

JOLBEE PLZA 109.19m² @250hi-floor 412-1825

## TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

### CARS FOR RENT

L3•Cars• 9273453 4538295

1T VAN 7837228

A B C CARS/VANS
NEW MODELS W/ OR W/O DRIVER
MLA HO 536-8822 • 303-9789
Q.C. BR. 426-2278 • 426-4084

## REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

### COMML/RESDL

TAGAYTAY HEIGHTS

- First class subdivision
- Along highway to Batangas
- Near Mahogany Market
- Perfect weather whole year round
- 250 sqm average lot area

*As low as P15,000/month*

*For inquiries, please call: 637-8936 / 637-8919*

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## TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

### CARS FOR RENT

A.TOYCO UDRIVE W/ DRIVER CARS/VANS/RENTAL 8006595

Bnew Vans 8254058 8261045

CAR VANS 410-0495

HIACE VAN RENT T7806589

L300 T7411356

P800/L3 9136710/4333682

REVO w/driver 9272821

STX*URVAN*ALTIS 7268388

Van 0917-6626993 • 6421840

## TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

### CARS

**OTHER CAR BRANDS**

W/ WARRANTY
★Pajero, Delica, Vans
★Serena, Caravan, Largo
★Land Cruser VX, H-Ace
★Nissan Terrano, Surf, etc.
★Trucks all models
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No hidden extra cost
Quality convertion
Customer satisfaction guaranteed
ACROSS MARKETING
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### CAR LOAN

1.5% Fast Car Loan 3677523/24

1.5 % EasyCarLoan 4000166 -67

1HR FastCarLoan 7125202

2% w/o Taking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

2% w/oTaking Car 8870490

2% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

2% w/oTaking Car 8966633/30

2% w/oTaking Car 3732081-82

## GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

### BAKERY EQUIPMENT

B/OVEN ROLLER SLICER 9331009 09163794561

### PETS

Dog Trainer 09192050952

DOG TRAINER 4528681

GOLDEN RET PUPS 4265472

### WANTED TO BUY

B/SELL EDUCL PLAN 8061574

EDUC PLAN- Monet 2528373

## REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

### COMML/RESDL

MAKILING HILLS

- First class neighborhood in Calamba Laguna
- View of Mt. Makiling
- With existing clubhouse, swimming pool, and basketball court
- 110 sqm average lot area

*As low as P5,000/month*

*For inquiries, please call: 637-8936 / 637-8919*

*We also welcome brokers!*

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## GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

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High Appraisal / Fast Cash
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5633742 0917-8473744

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## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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MECHANICAL & CIVIL ENGR. 3-5yrs experience, not more than 45yrs old, amenable to prov'l assignment T-7251114

### FEMALE

★ MANAGER ★
For Local Recruitment and Placement w/ at least 5 years work experience 8175511

### MALE/FEMALE

*DIRECT HIRE *
OFC MKTG STAFF START ASAP M/F 18-45 4752637 MS.KONICA

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FAMOUS CHRISTIAN ACADEMY
WANTED:
HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS
Born Again Christian, Board Passer, with ACE background Tel 630-6921 Lot 1 Blk 2 C-Lawis Ext., San Luis, Antipolo City

FREE CAREGIVER T5280730

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT OF MANILA
BRANCH 4

IN THE MATTER OF THE
RECTIFICATION OF SIMULATED
BIRTH, DECLARATION OF
ABANDONMENT AND ADOPTION OF
MINOR AUDI C. PANGILINAN,

SP. PROC. NO. 03-105901

DANILO L. PANGILINAN and
CYNTHIA C. PANGILINAN,
Petitioners.
x------------------------------------------x

### ORDER

This is a verified petition for rectification of simulated birth, declaration of abandonment and adoption of minor Audi C. Panglinan filed by Sps. Danilo L. Panglinan and Cynthia C. Panglinan, praying that after due notice, publication and hearing, a judgment be rendered rectifying the simulated birth of said minor, declaring Audi C. Panglinan as an abandoned child and adopted child of herein petitioners.

Finding the petition to be sufficient in form and substance, let this petition be set for hearing on July 18, 2003, at 2.00 p.m. before this Court located at Rm. 384, third flr., City Hall, Manila after this Order shall have been published at the expense of the petitioner in a newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks after raffle. All interested persons in this petition may appear at the aforesaid date of hearing and show cause, if any, why this petition should not be granted.

The Department of Social Worker and Development is hereby ordered to conduct a social case study on the subject minor and submit its report thereon to this Court together with its consent to adoption on or before the scheduled hearing of this petition. Likewise, the Social Worker of this Court, Ms. Eleanor M. Maguro, is hereby ordered to prepare her own Child and Home Study Reports and to conduct counseling sessions with the biological parents of the adoptee, if any and to submit her report on or before the scheduled hearing of this petition.

Let a copy of this Order and the copy of the petition be served upon the Office of the Solicitor General, Public Prosecutor, Department of Social Welfare and Development, social worker of this Court and the biological parents of the adoptee, if any, and the same be posted at the Bulletin Board in the premises of this Court, at three conspicuous places, at the expense of the petitioners.

SO ORDERED.

Manila, March 31, 2003.

(Sgd.) SOCORRO B. INTING
Judge

(PDI--May 29, June 5 & 12, 2003)

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## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

### MALE/FEMALE

Immediate Hiring
Civil Engrs prof w/ exp. & licensed 4272808 previous applicants need not apply

MKTG STF 09195240850 OLGA

OFC MKTG PERSONEL DIRECT HIRE CALL 9134470 OLGA

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## PUBLIC NOTICES

### AUCTION SALE

MUNOZ BRIONES PAWNSHOP
AUCTION SALE
•JUNE 09, 2003 •
All unredeemed articles from January 1-31, 2003
•354 Roosevelt Ave QC 9AM.
•Pinatubo St. Mand City 10AM
•Libertad St corner Sierra Madre Mand. 11AM.
•109 Dela Rosa St Mktl 1PM.
•108 Legaspi St Mktl 2PM.
*V. ZAMORA Lic. Auctioneer*

### LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late ARMANDO BALUYOT has been extrajudicially settled among his heirs on May 13, 2003 and absolutely sold to ABRAHAM, MOISES and RUTH all surnamed DE CASTRO as per Doc. No. 186; Page No. 39, Book 1; Series of 2003, before Notary Public Marianito R. Atienza of Bacoor Cavite
PDI-May 15, 22 & 29, 2003

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late MELENCIO S. MANIO & BRIGIDA D. MANIO of Bamban Tarlac was extrajudicially settled among the heirs as per Doc# 197, Page#40, Book#1, Series of 2003 of Notary Public Adennsigua of Capas, Tarlac.
(PDI-May 29, June 5, & 12 2003)

WEST MAKATI TOURIST INN
1417 Vito Cruz Extension
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8992168 to 69; 890-1003
Invites applicants for the position of:
FRONT DESK ASSISTANT
– Male / Female; 20-25 yrs. old
– HRM / Tourism grad.
– Excel/ Page Maker/ Word lit.
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Please submit personally or fax Transcript of Records, Biodata, with 2x2 ID, NBI Clearance by Wed., 04 June 2003. Ask for Rachel or Roland

## INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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Department of Labor and Employment

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SUMMER JOBS PROGRAM

at the

KABUHAYAN 2003 Action Center

SM Megamall Bldg. A
Mandaluyong City

April 10-June 10, 2003
4/F Bridgeway

Republic of the Philippines
**ISABELA STATE UNIVERSITY**
Echague, Isabela

## INVITATION TO BID

The Isabela State University invites interested and qualified supplier of **ENGINEERING EQUIPMENTS AND FACILITIES.**

The pre-qualification requirements are the following:

1. Company profile
2. DTI Registration
3. SEC Registration
4. 2003 Mayor's Permit Certificate
5. Certificate that the company is not black listed
6. Audited financial statement – 3 years
7. Tax Identification Number
8. VAT Registration
9. List of completed projects
10. For Exclusive Distributor, submit Certificate of Exclusive Distributorship

The schedule of Pre-Bidding Conference will be on June 6, 2003, 9:00 a.m. at the ALBA HALL, Administration Building, Isabela State University, Echague, Isabela.

The Isabela State University reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any informality or accept such bids as may be considered advantageous to the government.

Interested bidders may obtain further information from Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat, Office of the Vice President for Administration and Finance, ISU, Echague, Isabela or call (078) 672-20-20.

(Sgd.) **ROMEO R. QUILANG**
Chair, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – May 29, 2003)

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**ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT**
Pilar St., Zamboanga City
Telephone No. 991-1556; 991-1557

## INVITATION TO BID

The ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT (ZCWD) is inviting interested and licensed suppliers of uPVC Pipes, uPVC Bends, C.I. Fittings, CLAC Pipes & elbows, CLSP Pipes & Bends to submit bids for the following:

| PR/JO NO. | DESCRIPTION |
|---|---|
| 6600 | uPVC Pipes, and uPVC Bends for the pipelaying projects undertaken by the Const. & Maint. Dept. |
| 6735 | uPVC Pipes & Bends, C.I. Fittings, CLSP Pipes & Bends, CLAC Pipes & Elbows for the proposed distribution line project at Tulungatung. |

Interested suppliers may obtain Bid Forms and Detailed Specifications at the Records Section, 2F, ZCWD Bldg., Pilar St., Zamboanga City after payment of a minimal non-refundable fee of P500.00.

Submission of BIDS : **June 16, 2003**
**10:00 a.m., 2/F ZCWD Main Office Bldg.**
**Pilar St., Zamboanga City**

The ZCWD reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive minor informalities in the bids received, and to award the contract to the supplier whose bid, as evaluated by the PBAC, is the most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **ARNULFO A. ALFONSO**
PBAC Chairman

(PDI–May 29, 2003)

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**UNIVERSAL RIGHTFIELD PROPERTY HOLDINGS, INC.**

## NOTICE OF POSTPONEMENT OF ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING

NOTICE TO : All Stockholders of Record
FROM : The Corporate Secretary
DATE : 27 May 2003
RE : Annual Stockholders' Meeting

The Annual Stockholders' Meeting of Universal Rightfield Property Holdings, Inc. (the "Corporation"), which, under the Corporation's By-Laws should be held on 30 May 2003, has been postponed to 1 August 2003. The Corporation's audited financial statements for the year ending 31 December 2002 could not be finalized in time such that the Corporation's Annual Report (SRC Form 17-A) could be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) by 9 May 2003 (the date when the definitive information statement was due for filing with the SEC if the annual stockholders' meeting for the year 2003 is to be held on 30 May 2003).

The postponed Annual Stockholders' Meeting of the Corporation will be held on 1 August 2003, 2:30 p.m., at the Function Room, Podium Deck of Pioneer Highlands Condominium, Pioneer cor. Madison Sts., Mandaluyong City.

The record date for the determination of stockholders entitled to notice of, and to vote at the postponed Annual Stockholders' Meeting is 19 July 2003 (as per the Corporation's By-Laws, not exceeding 20 days preceding the date of the Annual Stockholders' Meeting).

(Sgd.) **ZENAIDA L. SALIPSIP**
Corporate Secretary

---

OPPORTUNITY
KNOCKS
BUT ONCE.

Read it every Sunday
with the
Philippine Daily Inquirer.

JOB MARKET

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**PNOC PETROCHEMICAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**
(A WHOLLY OWNED SUBSIDIARY OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL OIL COMPANY)

11th Floor BA Lepanto Bldg.
8747 Paseo de Roxas
1227 Makati City, Philippines

Tel. No. 892-0293
892-0283
810-7161

Fax No.: 892-0346

## INVITATION TO REGISTER, APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO RE-BID

The PNOC — Petrochemical Development Corporation (PPDC) invites interested Filipino contractors currently accredited with the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB), and in good standing to register, apply for eligibility and if subsequently found eligible, to bid for the following project described below:

I. Work Order No. : WSC-01-002
II. Project title : Jetty Firefighting Facilities Modification Project (Module I)
III. Scope of work : Supply of labor, materials, tools and other necessary equipment to complete the Phase 1 works. Works to include supply and installation of the proposed remote operated fire monitor, relocation of existing fire motor and modification of fire main pipe.
IV. Project Location : Petrochemical Industrial Estate (PIE) in Limay and Mariveles, Bataan, Philippines
V. Approved Budget : Pesos Nine Million Two Hundred Six Thousand Five Hundred Seventy Nine and 47/00 (P9,206,579.47)
VI. Source of Funding : PNOC — Petrochemical Development Corporation
VII. Estimated Contract Duration : Two Hundred Ten (210) Calendar Days
VIII. PCAB License Minimum Requirement:
Registration Qualifications
Kinds of Project : Mechanical Work and Water Supply
Size Range : Medium A Medium A
IX. Similar contracts : Mechanical Works, Water Supply
X. Credit Line / Cash Deposit : Pesos Nine Hundred Twenty Thousand Six Hundred Fifty Seven and 95/100 (P920,657.95)
XI. Submission of Letter of Intent and Registration Documents
Date and time : May 30 – June 18, 2003 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Place of Submission : PNOC – Petrochemical Development Corporation 11/F, Lepanto Bldg., 8747 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City c/o BAC Secretariat
Requirements : Submit certified true copies of the following basic requirements signed by the prospective bidder or its duly authorized representative together with the original copies for verification:

- Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) business name registration or Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) registration certificate, whichever may be appropriate under existing laws of the Philippines;
- Mayor's Permit / Municipal License
- Taxpayer Identification Number
- Notarized statement of the prospective bidder that it is not "blacklisted" or barred from bidding by any government agency, office or corporation, including non-inclusion in the "blacklist" of contractors issued by CIAP
- BIR Registration
- Current PCAB License
- DOLE Clearance / Certification (of no pending case)
- DOLE Certificate of Registration
- SSS Clearance
- Notarized certification by the prospective bidder or its duly authorized representative that each of the documents submitted is:
  - true and correct; and,
  - an original copy or a true and faithful reproduction or copy of the original

XII. Eligibility Statement Forms : One (1) set each to be filled in and submitted for every project
Cost of Forms : One Hundred Pesos each set (P100.00)
Date and Time of Issuance : June 2 - 23, 2003 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Place of Issuance : PNOC-Petrochemical Development Corporation 11/F, Lepanto Bldg., 8747 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City c/o BAC Secretariat
or
PNOC – Petrochemical Development Corporation Petrochem Park, Batangas, Dos, Mariveles Bataan c/o BAC Secretariat
Deadline of Submission : June 30, 2003 at 10:00 a.m. at PPDC Makati office
OPENING OF ELIGIBILITY DOCUMENTS WILL FOLLOW IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE DEADLINE OF SUBMISSION OF DOCUMENTS. LATE DOCUMENTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED
XIII. Notice of Eligibility / Ineligibility
Date and Time of Issuance : until July 16, 2003 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Place of Issuance : PNOC - Petrochemical Development Corporation 11/F, Lepanto Bldg., 8747 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City c/o BAC Secretariat
XIV. Pre-bid Conference
Date and Time : July 29, 2003 at 10:00 a.m. PPDC Conference Room
Venue : PNOC - Petrochemical Development Corporation Petrochem Park, Batangas Dos, Mariveles, Bataan c/o BAC Secretariat
XV. Bid / Tender Documents : Shall be issued only to eligible contractors upon payment of the non-refundable cost of the documents.
Cost of Documents. : One Thousand Pesos each set (P 1,000,00)
Date and Time of Issuance : July 17 - 25, 2003 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Place of Issuance : PNOC - Petrochemical Development Corporation 11/F, Lepanto Bldg., 8747 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City c/o BAC Secretariat
or
PNOC - Petrochemical Development Corporation Petrochem Park, Batangas Dos, Mariveles, Bataan c/o BAC Secretariat
Deadline of submission : August 15, 2003 at 10:00 a.m.
Place of Submission : PNOC - Petrochemical Development Corporation 11/F, Lepanto Bldg., 8747 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City c/o BAC Secretariat
XVI. **BID OPENING IN THE SAME VENUE WILL FOLLOW IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE DEADLINE OF SUBMISSION OF BIDS. LATE BIDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

Prospective bidders are required to submit the original copy of the Credit Line or Cash Deposit Certificate, and original copies of pertinent documents such as Contractor's PCAB License, audited Financial Statement etc. for verification purposes.

All bids must be accompanied by a bid security valid for one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from the date of opening of bids equivalent to the amount, and in the form acceptable to PPDC as indicated in the Instruction to Bidders.

All particulars relative to registration, eligibility, bidding, evaluation of bids and award of contract shall be governed by the provisions of Executive Order No. 40 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

PPDC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any defect or informality therein, or accept such bid or award any part thereof to any bidder/s whose bid/s is/are considered most advantageous to PPDC. PPDC further assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses or loss they may incur in the preparation of their bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **VICTORIO MARIO A. DIMAGIBA**
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – May 29 & June 6, 2003)

---

**PNOC PETROCHEMICAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**
(A WHOLLY OWNED SUBSIDIARY OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL OIL COMPANY)

11th Floor BA Lepanto Bldg.
8747 Paseo de Roxas
1227 Makati City, Philippines

Tel. No. 892-0293
892-0283
810-7161

Fax No.: 892-0346

## INVITATION TO REGISTER, APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The PNOC — Petrochemical Development Corporation (PPDC) invites interested Filipino contractors currently accredited with the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB), and in good standing to register, apply for eligibility and if subsequently found eligible, to bid for the following project described below:

I. Work Order No. : WSC-02-009
II. Project Title : Construction of Shoreline Perimeter Fence and Jetty Gate Improvements
III. Scope of Work : Supply of labor, materials, supervision and necessary equipment for the complete construction of shoreline perimeter fence; construction of footing support for perimeter fence tubular column; supply, fabrication and installation of steel galvanized perimeter fence with barbed wire; construction of outfall barrier; fabrication and installation of steel grilles vehicular gates with steel hollow frame; clearing, grubbing, dispose off-site excavated materials up to the required design elevation; subgrade preparation and bedding; construction of concrete pavement, CHB wall, sidewalk, curbs and gutter; all other related activities.
IV. Project Location : Petrochemical Industrial Estate (PIE) in Limay and Mariveles, Bataan, Philippines
V. Approved Budget : Pesos Five Million Seven Hundred Thirteen Thousand Two Hundred Two and 94/100 (P5,713,202.94)
VI. Source of Funding : PNOC — Petrochemical Development Corporation
VII. Estimated Contract Duration : One Hundred Twenty (120) Calendar Days
VIII. PCAB License Minimum Requirement:
Registration Qualifications
Kinds of Project : Road, Highway Pavement, Horizontal Structures and Bridges
Size Range : Medium A
IX. Similar Contracts : Construction of Roads, Pavements and Perimeter Fence
X. Credit Line / Cash Deposit : Pesos Five Hundred Seventy One Thousand Three Hundred Twenty and 29/100 (P 571,320.29)
XI. Submission of Letter of Intent and Registration Documents
Date and Time : May 30 - June 18, 2003 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Place of Submission : PNOC – Petrochemical Development Corporation 11/F, Lepanto Bldg., 8747 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City c/o BAC Secretariat
Requirements : Submit certified true copies of the following basic requirements signed by the prospective bidder or its duly authorized representative together with the original copies for verification:

- Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) business name registration or Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) registration certificate, whichever may be appropriate under existing laws of the Philippines;
- Mayor's Permit / Municipal License
- Taxpayer Identification Number
- Notarized statement of the prospective bidder that it is not "blacklisted" or barred from bidding by any government agency, office or corporation, including non-inclusion in the "blacklist" of contractors issued by CIAP
- BIR Registration
- Current PCAB License
- DOLE Clearance / Certification (of no pending cases)
- DOLE Certificate of Registration
- SSS Clearance
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  - an original copy or a true and faithful reproduction or copy of the original

XII. Eligibility Statement Forms : One (1) set each to be filled in and submitted for every project
Cost of Forms : One Hundred Pesos each set (P100.00)
Date and Time of Issuance : June 2 - 23, 2003 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
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or
PNOC – Petrochemical Development Corporation Petrochem Park, Batangas Dos, Mariveles Bataan c/o BAC Secretariat
Deadline of Submission : June 30, 2003 at 1:30 p.m. at PPDC Makati office
OPENING OF ELIGIBILITY DOCUMENTS WILL FOLLOW IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE DEADLINE OF SUBMISSION OF DOCUMENTS. LATE DOCUMENTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.
XIII. Notice of Eligibility / Ineligibility
Date and Time of Issuance : until July 16, 2003 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Place of Issuance : PNOC - Petrochemical Development Corporation 11/F, Lepanto Bldg., 8747 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City c/o BAC Secretariat
XIV. Pre-bid Conference
Date and Time : July 29, 2003 at 1:30 p.m.
Venue : PPDC Conference Room PNOC – Petrochemical Development Corporation Petrochem Park, Batangas Dos, Mariveles, Bataan c/o BAC Secretariat
XV. Bid / Tender Documents : Shall be issued only to eligible contractors upon payment of the non-refundable cost of the documents.
Cost of Documents : One Thousand Pesos each set (P 1,000.00)
Date and Time of Issuance : July 17 - 25, 2003 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
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All bids must be accompanied by a bid security valid for one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from the date of opening of bids equivalent to the amount, and in the form acceptable to PPDC as indicated in the Instructions to Bidders.

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(Sgd.) **VICTORIO MARIO A. DIMAGIBA**
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – May 29 & June 6, 2003)

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Republic of the Philippines
**ISABELA STATE UNIVERSITY**
Echague, Isabela

## INVITATION TO BID

The Isabela State University invites interested and qualified supplier of **ENGINEERING EQUIPMENTS AND FACILITIES.**

The pre-qualification requirements are the following:

1. Company profile
2. DTI Registration
3. SEC Registration
4. 2003 Mayor's Permit Certificate
5. Certificate that the company is not black listed
6. Audited financial statement – 3 years
7. Tax Identification Number
8. VAT Registration
9. List of completed projects
10. For Exclusive Distributor, submit Certificate of Exclusive Distributorship

The schedule of Pre-Bidding Conference will be on June 6, 2003, 9:00 a.m. at the ALBA HALL, Administration Building, Isabela State University, Echague, Isabela.

The Isabela State University reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any informality or accept such bids as may be considered advantageous to the government.

Interested bidders may obtain further information from Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat, Office of the Vice President for Administration and Finance, ISU, Echague, Isabela or call (078) 672-20-20.

(Sgd.) ROMEO R. QUILANG
Chair, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – May 29, 2003)

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ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT
Pilar St., Zamboanga City
Telephone No. 991-1556; 991-1557

## INVITATION TO BID

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| PR/JO NO. | DESCRIPTION |
|---|---|
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| 6735 | uPVC Pipes & Bends, C.I. Fittings, CLSP Pipes & Bends, CLAC Pipes & Elbows for the proposed distribution line project at Tulungatung. |

Interested suppliers may obtain Bid Forms and Detailed Specifications at the Records Section, 2F, ZCWD Bldg., Pilar St., Zamboanga City after payment of a minimal non-refundable fee of P500.00.

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**10:00 a.m., 2/F ZCWD Main Office Bldg.**
**Pilar St., Zamboanga City**

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(Sgd.) ARNULFO A. ALFONSO
PBAC Chairman

(PDI–May 29, 2003)

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UNIVERSAL RIGHTFIELD PROPERTY HOLDINGS, INC.

## NOTICE OF POSTPONEMENT OF ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING

NOTICE TO : All Stockholders of Record
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RE : Annual Stockholders' Meeting

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(Sgd.) ZENAIDA L. SALIPSIP
Corporate Secretary

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PNOC PETROCHEMICAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
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  11/F, Lepanto Bldg., 8747 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City
  c/o BAC Secretariat
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  Place of Issuance : PNOC - Petrochemical Development Corporation
  11/F, Lepanto Bldg., 8747 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City
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  Date and Time : July 29, 2003 at 10:00 a.m.
  PPDC Conference Room
  Venue : PNOC - Petrochemical Development Corporation
  Petrochem Park, Batangas Dos, Mariveles, Bataan
  c/o BAC Secretariat
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  Cost of Documents : One Thousand Pesos each set (P 1,000,00)
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  from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
  Place of Issuance : PNOC - Petrochemical Development Corporation
  11/F, Lepanto Bldg., 8747 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City
  c/o BAC Secretariat
  or
  PNOC - Petrochemical Development Corporation
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  Deadline of submission : August 15, 2003 at 10:00 a.m.
  Place of Submission : PNOC - Petrochemical Development Corporation
  11/F, Lepanto Bldg., 8747 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City
  c/o BAC Secretariat
XVI. BID OPENING IN THE SAME VENUE WILL FOLLOW IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE DEADLINE OF SUBMISSION OF BIDS. LATE BIDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

Prospective bidders are required to submit the original copy of the Credit Line or Cash Deposit Certificate, and original copies of pertinent documents such as Contractor's PCAB License, audited Financial Statement etc. for verification purposes.

All bids must be accompanied by a bid security valid for one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from the date of opening of bids equivalent to the amount, and in the form acceptable to PPDC as indicated in the Instruction to Bidders.

All particulars relative to registration, eligibility, bidding, evaluation of bids and award of contract shall be governed by the provisions of Executive Order No. 40 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

PPDC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any defect or informality therein, or accept such bid or award any part thereof to any bidder/s whose bid/s is/are considered most advantageous to PPDC. PPDC further assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses or loss they may incur in the preparation of their bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) VICTORIO MARIO A. DIMAGIBA
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – May 29 & June 6, 2003)

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PNOC PETROCHEMICAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
(A WHOLLY OWNED SUBSIDIARY OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL OIL COMPANY)

11th Floor BA Lepanto Bldg.
8747 Paseo de Roxas
1227 Makati City, Philippines

Tel. No. 892-0293
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810-7161

Fax No.: 892-0346

## INVITATION TO REGISTER, APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The PNOC — Petrochemical Development Corporation (PPDC) invites interested Filipino contractors currently accredited with the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB), and in good standing to register, apply for eligibility and if subsequently found eligible, to bid for the following project described below:

I. Work Order No. : WSC-02-009
II. Project Title : Construction of Shoreline Perimeter Fence and Jetty Gate Improvements
III. Scope of Work : Supply of labor, materials, supervision and necessary equipment for the complete construction of shoreline perimeter fence; construction of footing support for perimeter fence tubular column; supply, fabrication and installation of steel galvanized perimeter fence with barbed wire; construction of outfall barrier; fabrication and installation of steel grilles vehicular gates with steel hollow frame; clearing, grubbing, dispose off-site excavated materials up to the required design elevation; subgrade preparation and bedding; construction of concrete pavement, CHB wall, sidewalk, curbs and gutter; all other related activities.
IV. Project Location : Petrochemical Industrial Estate (PIE) in Limay and Mariveles, Bataan, Philippines
V. Approved Budget : Pesos Five Million Seven Hundred Thirteen Thousand Two Hundred Two and 94/100 (P5,713,202.94)
VI. Source of Funding : PNOC — Petrochemical Development Corporation
VII. Estimated Contract Duration : One Hundred Twenty (120) Calendar Days
VIII. PCAB License Minimum Requirement:
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    Kinds of Project : Road, Highway Pavement, Horizontal Structures and Bridges
    Size Range : Medium A
IX. Similar Contracts : Construction of Roads, Pavements and Perimeter Fence
X. Credit Line / Cash Deposit : Pesos Five Hundred Seventy One Thousand Three Hundred Twenty and 29/100 (P 571,320.29)
XI. Submission of Letter of Intent and Registration Documents
  Date and Time : May 30 - June 18, 2003
  from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
  Place of Submission : PNOC – Petrochemical Development Corporation
  11/F, Lepanto Bldg., 8747 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City
  c/o BAC Secretariat
  Requirements : Submit certified true copies of the following basic requirements signed by the prospective bidder or its duly authorized representative together with the original copies for verification:
  - Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) business name registration or Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) registration certificate, whichever may be appropriate under existing laws of the Philippines;
  - Mayor's Permit / Municipal License
  - Taxpayer Identification Number
  - Notarized statement of the prospective bidder that it is not "blacklisted" or barred from bidding by any government agency, office or corporation, including non-inclusion in the "blacklist" of contractors issued by CIAP
  - BIR Registration
  - Current PCAB License
  - DOLE Clearance / Certification (of no pending cases)
  - DOLE Certificate of Registration
  - SSS Clearance
  - Notarized certification by the prospective bidder or its duly authorized representative that each of the documents submitted is:
    - true and correct; and,
    - an original copy or a true and faithful reproduction or copy of the original
XII. Eligibility Statement Forms : One (1) set each to be filled in and submitted for every project
  Cost of Forms : One Hundred Pesos each set (P100.00)
  Date and Time of Issuance : June 2 - 23, 2003
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  Place of Issuance : PNOC - Petrochemical Development Corporation
  11/F, Lepanto Bldg., 8747 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City
  c/o BAC Secretariat
  or
  PNOC – Petrochemical Development Corporation
  Petrochem Park, Batangas Dos, Mariveles Bataan
  c/o BAC Secretariat
  Deadline of Submission : June 30, 2003 at 1:30 p.m. at PPDC Makati office
  OPENING OF ELIGIBILITY DOCUMENTS WILL FOLLOW IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE DEADLINE OF SUBMISSION OF DOCUMENTS. LATE DOCUMENTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.
XIII. Notice of Eligibility / Ineligibility
  Date and Time of Issuance : until July 16, 2003
  from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
  Place of Issuance : PNOC - Petrochemical Development Corporation
  11/F, Lepanto Bldg., 8747 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City
  c/o BAC Secretariat
XIV. Pre-bid Conference
  Date and Time : July 29, 2003 at 1:30 p.m.
  Venue : PPDC Conference Room
  PNOC – Petrochemical Development Corporation
  Petrochem Park, Batangas Dos, Mariveles, Bataan
  c/o BAC Secretariat
XV. Bid / Tender Documents : Shall be issued only to eligible contractors upon payment of the non-refundable cost of the documents.
  Cost of Documents : One Thousand Pesos each set (P 1,000.00)
  Date and Time of Issuance : July 17 - 25, 2003
  from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
  Place of Issuance : PNOC - Petrochemical Development Corporation
  11/F, Lepanto Bldg., 8747 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City
  c/o BAC Secretariat
  or
  PNOC - Petrochemical Development Corporation
  Petrochem Park, Batangas Dos, Mariveles, Bataan
  c/o BAC Secretariat
  Deadline of Submission : August 15, 2003 at 1:30 p.m.
  Place of Submission : PNOC - Petrochemical Development Corporation
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  c/o BAC Secretariat
XVI. BID OPENING IN THE SAME VENUE WILL FOLLOW IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE DEADLINE OF SUBMISSION OF BIDS. LATE BIDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

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All particulars relative to registration, eligibility, bidding, evaluation of bids and award of contract shall be governed by the provisions of Executive Order No. 40 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

PPDC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any defect or informality therein, or accept such bid or award any part thereof to any bidder/s whose bid/s is/are considered most advantageous to PPDC. PPDC further assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses or loss they may incur in the preparation of their bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

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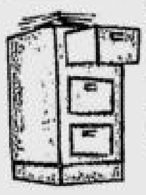

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## Arch. Cesar Homero Concio, Sr.

*Born on Nov. 30, 1907*
*Died in the Grace of our Lord on May 27, 2003*

He is survived by his *sisters*, Francisca Teodoro and Socorro Cruz; *children*, Cesar, Jr. and Charo, Augusto, Cynthia and Ralph Atencio; *granchildren* Mia and Benjie Imperial, Jocelle and Roger Harkin, Vincent and Christine, Nana and Ray Quimpo, Sandra and Jomi Deveras, Rina, Francis, Martin, Marc and Khristine, Claire, Paolo, Cesar, Joel, Peter, Michael and Jules, Rosanne and Gabby Sevilla, Leo, and 12 *great grandchildren*.

His remains lie in state at the Hearts of Jesus and Mary Parish Church, Daily Mirror St., West Triangle, Quezon City.

There will be mass every night at 8pm. Final mass will be held on Saturday, May 31, 2003 at 10:30am.

## ANITA "Aning" CRUZ IGNACIO

**wife of the late Dr. MARIO E. IGNACIO**

of Marikina City

*Passed away in the Grace of our Lord on May 28, 2003 at the age of 89.*

Her loving children **Marita** & **Rene**, **Corazon** & **Ernest**, **Moryet** & **Gely**, **Lito** & **Luz**, **David** & **Aida**, **Eric** & **Lydia** and **Dondi** & **Minda**; grandchildren **Dons** & **Mina**, **Baby** & **Jun**, **Dino** & **Chrislyn**, **Karen** & **Dondi**, **Janet** & **Rollie**, **Monette** & **Louie**, **Boyet** & **Trazee**, **Tess** & **Edwin**, **Jun** & **Fe**, **Malu** & **Joy**, **Ryan**, **Aileen** & **Paul**, and **JR**; great-grandchildren **Ian**, **Kevin** & **Rob**, **Kimee**, **Nika** & **Nikki**, **Altri** & **Gio**, **Aubrey** (†) & **Patrick**, **Mikey**, **Mitch** & **Bianca**, **Max**, **Josh** & **Zoe**, **Annicka**, **Ace**, and **Anya**; in-laws, relatives and friends mourn her passing away and request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Guzman Memorial Chapel, J.P. Rizal St., Sto. Niño, Marikina City.

Interment will be on Saturday, May 31, 2003 at the Philippine Independent Cemetery, Concepcion, Marikina City after the 2 p.m. Mass at the Philippine Independent Church, Marikina City.

## ELENA CRUZ SERRANO

*Peacefully joined her Creator on Monday, the 26th of May 2003, at the age of 72.*

Her beloved husband **Orlino S. Serrano**; children **Ma. Mercedita (Ditas)**, **Ma. Melissa (Cheche)**, and **Ramoncito (Mon)**; sister **Concepcion**; brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, nephews and nieces, other relatives and friends request fervent prayers and special petitions for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Arlington East Memorial Chapels, C. Raymundo cor. Mercedes Aves., San Miguel, Pasig City.

Interment will take place on Saturday, the 31st of May 2003 at the Pasig Municipal Cemetery after the Holy Mass at 2:00 p.m. at the Immaculate Conception Parish.

**"Let the words of my mouth meet your Favor, keep the thoughts of my heart before you, Lord, my rock, my redeemer..."**
— Psalm 21:15

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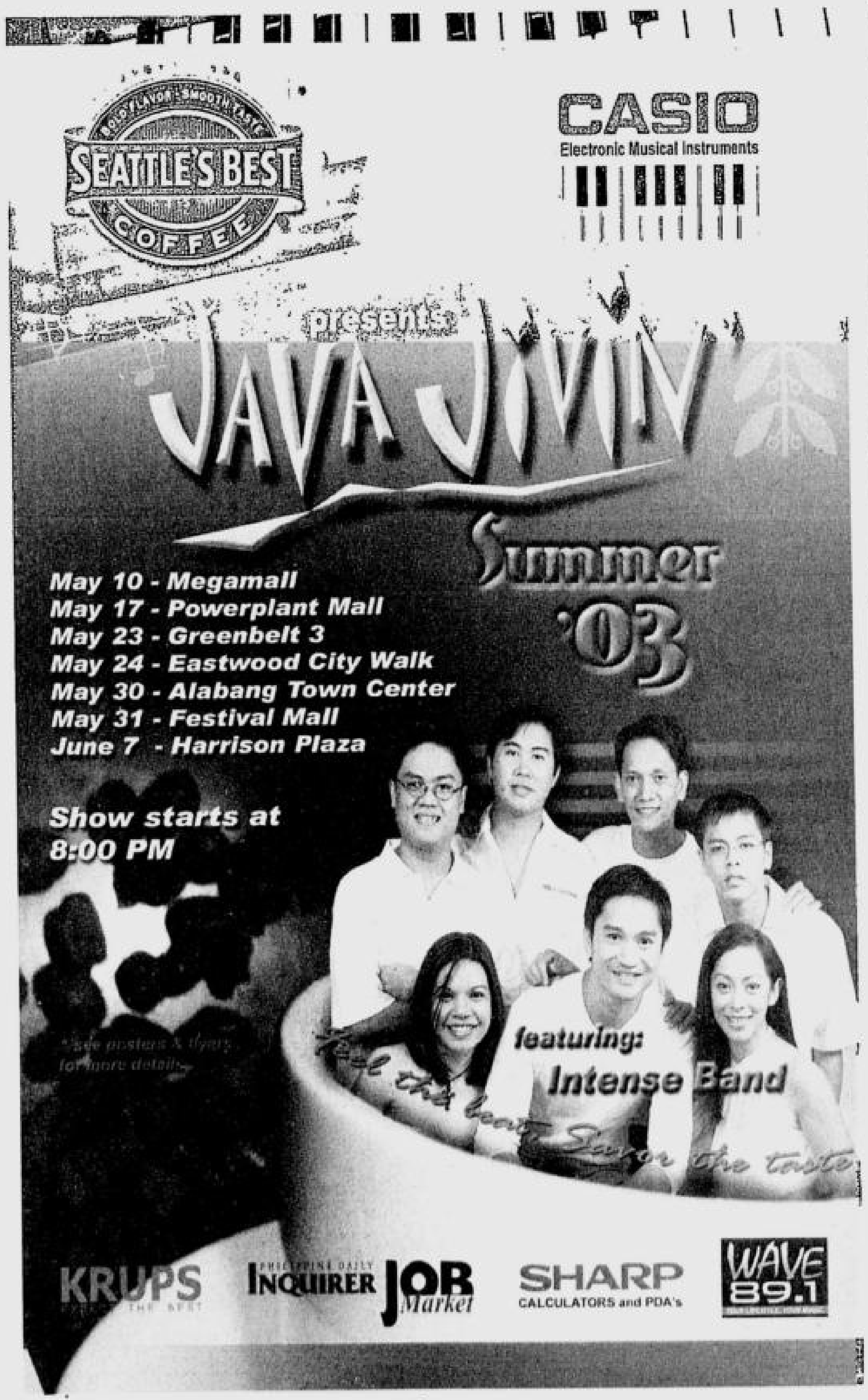

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# *Fed readies weapons to fight deflation*

WASHINGTON—Who said victory was sweet?

Having declared they have won the war over long-time foe inflation, US Federal Reserve officials are fretting about a potentially more worrisome enemy—deflation—and are weighing measures whose market impact is hard to gauge.

The Fed has said the risk of such a broad-based decline in consumer prices is minor and most economists agree.

But with the central bank's preferred inflation gauge running below 1 percent, the Fed's vast economic team is studying it intensively, hoping to avoid the trap that has hemmed in the Bank of Japan for a decade.

Some economists think the hand-wringing is overdone, but even they note that problems that can accompany deflation—weak asset prices and falling profits among them—can be particularly hard to combat.

The United States has not wrestled with a sustained bout of deflation since the Great Depression. That's why Wall Street ran scared when the Fed, on May 6, raised the issue in a policy statement that warned of the risk of "an unwelcome substantial fall in inflation."

"We weren't trying to scare people, we were trying to be honest," Fed Governor Edward Gramlich told Reuters in an interview. "There's a small probability of a substantial fall in inflation, but if it occurred the cost would not be insignificant. That's the reason we put that in the statement," he said.

Last week, Fed Chair Alan Greenspan expanded on the Fed's concerns, offering his most detailed discussion yet of so-called unconventional measures the central bank could use to ward off deflation should its main policy lever—overnight interest rates, now at 1.25 percent—no longer be enough to spur growth.

Lou Crandall, chief economist at Wrightson Associates in New York, said even broaching the subject marked a foray into new turf for the Fed. Indeed, Greenspan's comments sent the benchmark 10-year Treasury yield tumbling to a 45-year low.

"I think we, in a sense, have gotten to unconventional," Crandall said. "The longer they have had to talk about unconventional means, the more their thinking has evolved toward efforts to influence market expectations and they've moved in a direction to affect those directly."

Dallas Fed research director Harvey Rosenblum said he expects Fed officials to discuss possible ways to combat deflation at their next policy meeting on June 24-25. *Reuters*

# Consumer confidence, housing point to stronger US economy

WASHINGTON—Hopes for a second-half US economic rebound got a lift from reports showing a robust housing market and a modest increase in consumer confidence.

The Conference Board said its consumer confidence index edged up to 83.8 from 81.0 in April. Although this was below some expectations on Wall Street, it was the highest level since November.

Two other reports showed housing remained a pillar of strength for the US economy.

The Commerce Department said sales of new homes rose 1.7 percent in April to an annualized pace of 1.028 million units, the highest level since December 2002.

A separate survey released by the National Association of Realtors showed existing home sales rose 5.6 percent in April to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 5.84 million units.

Wall Street rallied on the news, which fueled hopes of a strong recovery for the sputtering US economy by the second half of the year. The Dow industrials surged 2.09 percent and the Nasdaq 3.09 percent at the close of trade.

"The market definitely rose on the confidence data and new homes sales," said Art Hogan, chief market strategist at Jefferies and Co. "Two of the most important parts of the economy—confidence and the real estate market—are holding up."

Housing strength was attributed to the lowest interest rates in a generation, encouraging people to put more of their cash into real estate.

"Record low mortgage rates are something people are unwilling to pass up and as long as the rates stay down, sales will remain up," said Joel Naroff of Naroff Economic Advisors.

"With housing being the rock of the economy, the Fed would not want to see it falter." Consumer confidence is monitored by economists as a harbinger of consumer spending, which accounts for two-thirds of US economic activity.

"The bad part of this report was that consumers still believe the economy is having significant problems," said Naroff. "The good part was that they thought those problems would be fixed soon."

Analysts said the end of the Iraq war helped lift US consumer spirits but that many remain worried about weak economic and job market conditions.

"The end of fighting in Iraq, lower energy prices, a rising stock market and low interest rates have consumer confidence on the upswing," said Sung Won Sohn, chief economist at Wells Fargo Bank. *AFP*

# Euro steady but off record highs vs dollar

TOKYO—The euro steadied on Wednesday after rising to a record high against the dollar the previous day, with the market focus shifting to a European Central Bank policy-setting meeting next week.

The single currency has risen over eight percent in the last month. It hit a record high in Tokyo on Tuesday then extended its gains to around $1.1935 in New York.

"Moves were quite steep yesterday so the market is being hesitant to break above the closely watched $1.2 mark now," said Koichi Abe, forex trading manager at Aozora Bank.

Against the Japanese currency, the euro was trading at 138.53 yen compared to a US close of 138.48 yen. It hit a record high of 139.17 yen on Tuesday.

The dollar was steady at 117.15 yen against 117.25 yen in late New York.

Though fundamental factors supporting the euro remain unchanged, such as interest rate differences and a current account surplus in the eurozone compared with a deficit in the United States, dealers were cautious about the speed of its rise.

"I think we've seen the short-term peak for now," said Kenji Kobayashi, manager of the foreign exchange and treasury division at Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi.

Traders were looking ahead to the ECB meeting on June 5 to see if the central bank will cut interest rates, which some believe could weigh on the euro.

But others said a possible rate cut would be a supporting factor for the euro.

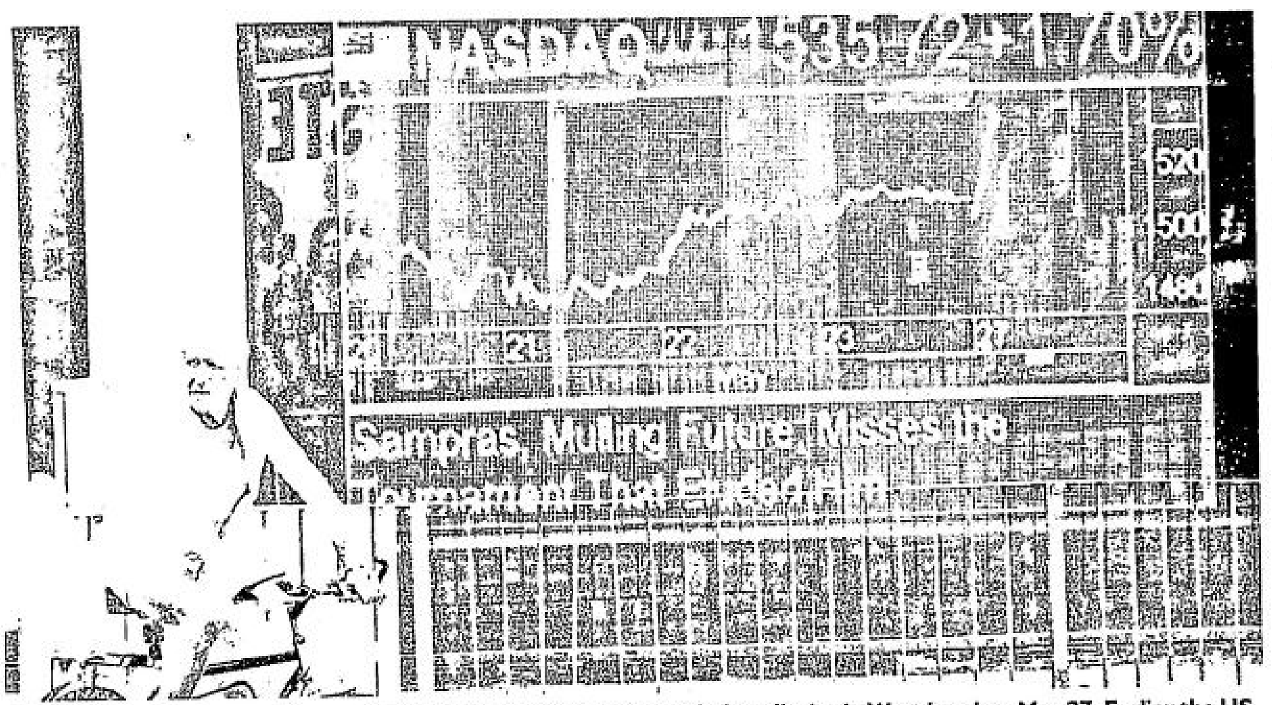
"I think they will cut rates but I think this will help the euro," said Tokyo-Mitsubishi's Kobayashi. "If they cut, it could help the European economy."

Meanwhile, many traders expect the dollar to stay confined to its current levels against the yen, with its upside capped by likely selling by Japanese exporters and its downside supported by fears of yen-selling intervention by the Bank of Japan.

Japan's top financial diplomat, Zembei Mizoguchi, said the US economy was showing signs of improvement and that this should help to stabilize the market.

Mizoguchi, the vice finance minister for international affairs, told reporters he hoped the market would reflect improvement in the US economy, meaning a rise in the dollar against the yen.

According to data released on Tuesday, US consumer confidence rose in May to a six-month high. *Reuters*



A CYCLIST waits to cross the road in front of a giant Bloomberg window display in West London, May 27. Earlier the US dollar dropped to its lowest level ever against the Euro, and fell against other major currencies in European trading Tuesday morning. The Euro was quoted at $1.1891 late morning, up from $1.1857 late Monday, May 26. The Euro traded as high as $1.1909 earlier in Asia, the highest since it hit $1.1884 on Jan. 4 1999, three days after it was launched. AP

# Asian shares jump on US data

SINGAPORE—Asian stocks sprang higher on Wednesday following robust US economic data, hitting four-and-a-half-month peaks outside of Japan, while the euro held steady a cent below its record high against the dollar.

Technology shares such as TDK Corp. and Chartered Semiconductor Manufacturing Ltd. led the advance after their peers on Wall Street leapt three percent on reports showing strength in the US housing market and a jump in consumer confidence.

Japan's Nikkei stock average added 1.4 percent to close at 8,234.18 after jumping to a two-week high at one point.

The broad MSCI Asia-Pacific Free Index ex-Japan had climbed 0.9 percent by 0600 GMT after earlier hitting its highest level since Jan. 15, approaching peaks last seen in August.

"There are hopes that US consumer sentiment is moving ahead of actual economic figures like retail sales and industrial production, and that those will start to catch up from May," said Tsuyoshi Nomaguchi, strategist at Daiwa Securities.

In the currency markets, the euro remained firm after striking a lifetime high around $1.1935 on Tuesday, but dealers said it could resume its rise soon as investors continued to chase higher-yielding European assets.

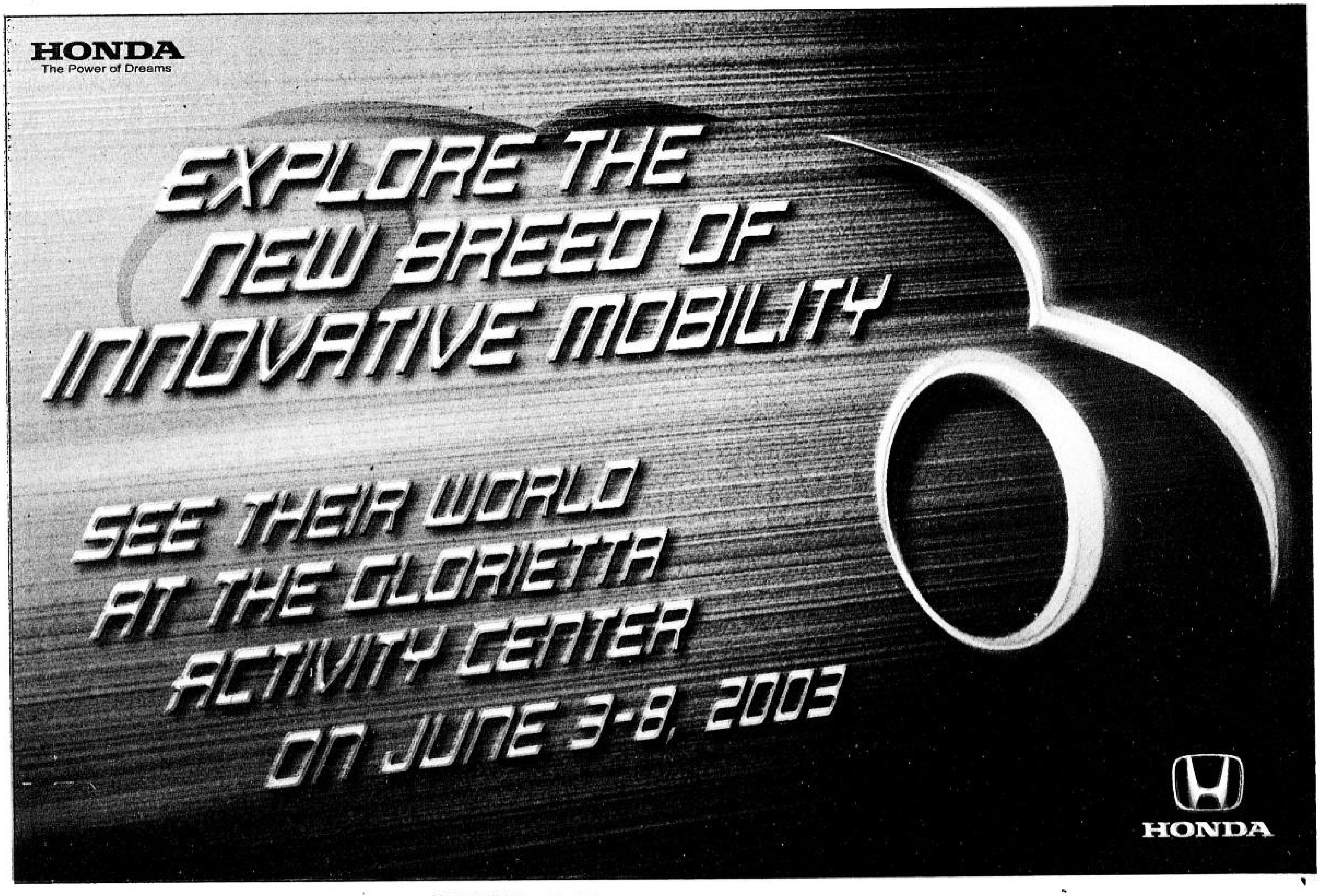
"Moves were quite steep yesterday so the market is being hesitant to break above the closely watched $1.2 mark now," said Koichi Abe, forex trading manager at Aozora Bank.

The euro was quoted at around $1.1840 versus $1.1812 in late New York trade. The dollar eased to 117.11 yen from 177.30 in late US trade. The euro was slightly firmer against the yen at 138.58 versus 138.54.

Gold fell as the euro steadied, dropping to $366.20 an ounce from $367.80 in US trade.

Elsewhere, oil prices dipped after hitting a five-week high on Tuesday on the prospect of reduced supplies from OPEC producers. US light crude eased 0.2 percent to $29.29 per barrel.

Japanese government bond (JGB) prices edged up, sending the benchmark yield to a record low. *Reuters*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3 THE MATRIX RELOADED
4 PAKNER

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3 PAKNER
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6 RING 0
7 AGENT CODY BANKS
8 FRIDA
9 ANG TANGING INA
10 HOW TO LOSE A GUY…

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2 FRIDA
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5 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
6 ANG TANGING INA
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8 PAKNERS
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11 HOW TO LOSE A GUY…
12 DAYO

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2 HOW TO LOSE A GUY…
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4 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
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11 PAKNERS
12 ANG TANGING INA

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2 X-MEN 2
3 THE MATRIX RELOADED
4 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
5 AGENT CODY BANKS
6 FRIDA
7 SO CLOSE
8 ANG TANGING INA
9 PAKNERS
10 HOW TO LOSE A GUY…
11 RING 0
12 ANG KAPITBAHAY

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2 ANG TANGING INA
3 ANG KAPITBAHAY
4 ANG TANGING INA
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6 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
7 AGENT CODY BANKS
8 THE MATRIX RELOADED

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3 THE MATRIX RELOADED
4 ANG TANGING INA
5 PAKNERS
6 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
7 PAKNERS
8 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
9 AGENT CODY BANKS
10 ANG KAPITBAHAY

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2 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
3 A MAN APART
4 PHONE BOOTH
5 PAKNERS
6 ANG KAPITBAHAY
7 ANG TANGING INA
8 THE MATRIX RELOADED

### SM CITY ILOILO
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1 PHONE BOOTH
2 CLOSED
3 THE MATRIX RELOADED
4 ANG TANGING INA
5 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
6 HOW TO LOSE A GUY…
7 CLOSED
8 A MAN APART

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3 WHAT A GIRL WANTS
4 ANG KAPITBAHAY
5 THE MATRIX RELOADED
6 PAKNERS

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2 PAKNERS
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4 BRUCE ALMIGHTY

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2 PAKNERS
3 ANG TANGING INA
4 ANG KAPITBAHAY

### SM CITY DAVAO
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2 FRIDA
3 PAKNERS
4 ANG TANGING INA
5 HOW TO LOSE A GUY…
6 BRUCE ALMIGHTY

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2 ANG KAPITBAHAY
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4 BRUCE ALMIGHTY

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3 KAPIT BAHAY
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5 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
6 MATRIX RELOADED

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4 MATRIX RELOADED
5 PAKNERS
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2 ANG TANGING INA
3 PAKNERS
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# MOTORING

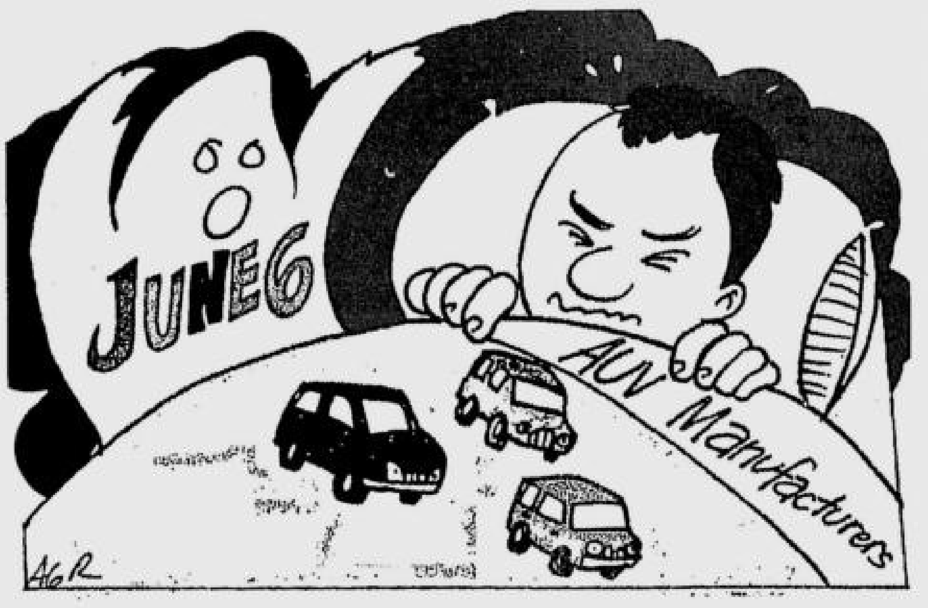
E-mail: pr_motoring@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Cesar D. Mangawang

## AUTO INDUSTRY JITTERS

# June 6 make-or-break date for AUVs

By Tessa R. Salazar



PICTURE your dream Asian utility vehicle (AUV), originally priced at around P800,000, jacking up to P1.3 million. Has the dream become a nightmare? Would you still save up to buy a suddenly expensive family or business workhorse?

This situation has made AUV manufacturers cringe.

If the excise tax bill supported by the automotive industry will not be deliberated and finished in the Senate on June 6, Revenue Regulation 4-2003 of the Department of Finance (DOF) will take effect, jacking AUV prices up P400,000 or more. This will virtually make these AUVs as expensive as compact SUVs.

The effect of the revenue regulation is drastic. Eighty percent of the total auto industry sales performance belongs to commercial vehicles. Half of all commercial vehicles are Asian utility vehicles, while passenger cars nowadays account for only 20 percent of the sale.

"There is no problem with deliberation, the senators should take their time to review the bill before it becomes a law, but the only (problem) is the pressure point of the revenue regulation. By June 6 the RR will be implemented if there is no excise tax law," said Truck Manufacturers Association president Elizabeth H. Lee.

### Appeal

Lee said the auto industry is appealing to the DOF for a deferment of the RR 4-2003.

"If the revenue regulation is deferred indefinitely, then the Senate can take time to study the excise tax bill," she said.

Final prices of AUVs may no longer be within the reach of the AUV buyers. This fear was expressed by manufacturers. Most people who buy AUVs have been small-scale entrepreneurs. A drastic drop in sales of AUVs can adversely affect manufacturers' businesses, TMA officials believe.

The local content involved in manufacturing AUVs is a minimum 40 percent. Some AUVs go as high as 70 to 80 percent, depending on the brand.

Four more sessions remain in the Senate for deliberating the excise tax bill.

"The RR is giving undue pressure on the Senate, which has many other priority bills," Lee said.

### Scenarios

There are three scenarios for the auto industry:

- If the excise tax bill is enacted, the RR is moot and academic.
- If the excise tax bill is not enacted, and the RR is deferred, then there would be status quo. In this case, the government is scheduled to restructure the excise tax.
- The worse-case scenario, then, for manufacturers is when the excise tax bill is not enacted, and the RR is implemented. The worst case, it seems, is drawing closer and closer to reality.

### Auto sales surge

Amid the wait for the final verdict, the total industry sales grew by 28 percent, with commercial vehicle sales growing by 44 percent and passenger cars sales declining by 11 percent. This is the year-to-date performance from January to April 2003.

The total auto industry decline in April 2003, however, was 24 percent compared to the previous month, with both passenger cars and commercial vehicles registering declines of 35 percent and 22 percent, respectively.

AUVs and light commercial vehicles—the biggest contributors in the commercial vehicle category—posted a decline of 40 percent and 12 percent, respectively, for the month of April.

AUVs, which had sales of 15,802 units for January to April 2003, increased by 69 percent. With the deluge of CRV buyers, Honda remains at No. 1 position in total sales for January to April 2003. It is followed by Revo maker Toyota. Isuzu, manufacturer of the Crosswind and XTO, is at third place.

Universal Motors Corp., distributor of Nissan Urvan vans and Frontier pickups, topped the light commercial vehicle category from January to April 2003 at 1,648 units. Mitsubishi, which makes the L300, the Strada, the Pajero and the Space Gear, placed second with 1,455 units. Toyota, makers of Land Cruiser, Hilux and Hi Ace, settled for third place at 1,434 units.

Performing well were vehicles in the light truck category. The category grew by 23 percent from January to April of 2003 compared to the same period last year. Ford Motors Philippines topped the category, followed by Isuzu and Mitsubishi. Examples of light trucks are big SUVs like Expedition and big vans like Chateau Wagon.

The trucks and buses category was topped by Columbian Motors, which dislodged MAN from January to April 2003, followed by Isuzu and Pilipinas Hino.

# Frontier still bullish in the pickup market

NISSAN Frontier drove its way to the peak of pickup sales once again in the double cab compact pickup segment for the month of April.

Latest figures revealed that for the 4x2 category alone, Frontier posted 139 units sold for the month and 70 units in the 4x4, making it the No. 1 selling pickup for both categories.

For this sales feat, Universal Motors Corp., assembler and distributor of Nissan light commercial and recreational vehicles, fastened its No. 1 belt anew for owning 209 units or 37.3 percent of the overall market share of the combined 4x2 and 4x4 double cab compact pickup segment based on a recent industry sales report of the Truck Manufacturers Association of the Philippines.

Finishing second this month is Ford Motors which sold 146 units, thereby securing 26.1 percent of the overall market share, while Mitsubishi trails behind for the third place, having sold 77 units or 13.8 percent of the combined 4x2 and 4x4 market.

Nissan Frontier has remained on the frontline of the double cab compact pickup sales race, refusing to shift gears and speeding all the more to the top spot since January. Of the 2,088 pickups reportedly sold by all major automotive players, 778 of them were sales closed by Universal Motors Corp. With its Nissan Frontier carrying the winning flag, the UMC outpaces its competitors for its 37.3 percent stake to the overall market share in the first four months of 2003.

This latest TMA report only proves that the Nissan Frontier remains to be the best in the eyes of its long-time clients, which can be attributed to its topnotch performance, dependability and durability.

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## 6-SPEED ADVANTAGE

# Setting your most fuel-efficient range

**By Tessa R. Salazar**

THE FIRST time I experienced driving a car with two types of transmission was a luxury car worth millions of pesos. Now, the good news is, the comfort of having two types of transmission in one car—where you can access both the manual and automatic shifts—can be had in a Lancer MX's 6-speed sportronic, at probably less than half the price of the luxury car.

### INVECS III CVT SPORTRONIC SPECS

| | |
|---|---|
| Overall length, width, height: | 4,500 mm, 1,695 mm, 1,445 mm |
| Turning radius: | 4.9 m |
| Fuel tank capacity: | 50 liters |
| Engine displacement: | 1,584 cc |
| Compression ratio: | 9.5 |
| Max. output: | 110 ps/6,200 rpm |
| Max. torque: | 14.1 kg-m/4,200 rpm |
| Front suspension: | McPherson Struts with coil spring and stabilizer bars |
| Back suspension: | multilink |

**THE INTELLIGENT** Lancer is beyond skin-deep transformation.
ALEX LOINAZ

**BACK view**
ALEX LOINAZ

**INVECS III 6-speed sportronic has CVT for automatic transmission.**

**THE OPEN** liquid crystal display juts out at a push of a button.

The Lancer MX, which is now a third-generation Invecs, is equipped with six fixed-pulley diameter and a manual shift gate that enables manual operation and selection of the gear of choice, from 1 to 6. It is also equipped with 1,600 cc 4G18 cyclone engine.

It was only recently that we were able to appreciate the technicalities of the sportronic when we drove it for the first time, toying around with the transmission like a kid given her first pedal-powered fire truck.

### No gear skips

First we tried the usual automatic drive, which was so smooth, free from "shift shock," you wouldn't even feel or notice that it had shifted. Response was instant. Maybe this was what Mitsubishi meant with its continuous variable transmission, or CVT. For years, most A/Ts we tried produced big drops as the transmission shifted—jumping or skipping one gear. From first gear, for instance, regular A/Ts jumped to third gear right away. And the wrong gear, as we know when we drive M/Ts, requires more pedal travel to give it more power, and more unnecessary fuel consumption.

For the Lancer MX, there were no gear skips. We were even able to retain the RPM at its most power-efficient range. And it was fun. Too bad the car had no torque curve indicator so we could monitor accurately the RPM for improved fuel consumption.

### Car that idiots can't destroy

After tinkering with the A/T during stop-and-go traffic, we shifted to the manual shift gate then nudged it forward or backward on the gear of choice from 1 to 6.

While still on the M/T, we drove the MX on open ground away from the highways. Purposely, we ran it on first gear while running at 120 kph. Amazingly, the engine didn't blow. Try that with regular transmission cars and you'll need an engine change. As what our technical expert remarked, "even an idiot couldn't destroy this car."

Pretending as if we were idiots, we floored the pedal on manual to reach 6,000 rpm, and the engine still shifted by itself. The Invecs III has, indeed, come of age, a virtual artificial intelligence for the car.

The Invecs has program that senses engine speed, which matches the range of the transmission, the hydraulic pressure system and the rotating components. It shifts itself at its speed points.

The engineers at Mitsubishi, perhaps, thought that some drivers of the MX would sometimes forget that they had shifted to manual and tend to forget to manually shift their transmissions. Thus, the engine is programmed to protect itself and "override" the driver.

### The engine inside

The radiator fins seem they would be the first to go. There's a great chance of them getting damaged because of their "softness." We could already see some punctures around the auxiliary fan. Some of the fins, in fact, were no longer efficient because of some deformities.

Our technical expert warned us that adequate coolants are needed always in the Lancer. Why? With this design of varying metals, no suitable coolant would result in galvanic corrosion.

Therefore, the Lancer's radiator would puncture easily if the MX owner is negligent. The owner of this car must make sure he or she has adequate coolant, otherwise the radiator would soon puncture from the inside as corrosion sets in.

### The luxury look

The new Lancer MX is longer, wider and taller than its predecessors, and has been given a luxury look. But, as Lancer enthusiasts observe, this sportier model Lancer should have had less chrome.

New-look additions include a diamond-cut nose design, honeycomb-design grille, color-keyed front bumper, chrome grip type door handles, clear lens reflector type halogen lamps, chrome body side and bumper holdings, chrome scuff plates and 15-inch aluminum wheels.

It looks smaller on the outside but is actually roomy inside. The simulated wood grain finish "can really fool a termite," as one auto writer used to say.

The console is ergonomically sound. The armrests allow for relaxed driving. Everything about the interior is fitted snugly, and fits humans in a wide range of heights and widths. Of course, the steering adjustment allows drivers to opt for their most comfortable steering wheel angle.

The radio, design-wise, is quite weird. The open liquid crystal display (which juts out when we push the button to see radio station channels or shift to CD or VCD) blocks out the emergency hazard light button. Perhaps this new radio design is some sort of a preparation for a GPS feature in future MX models.

Its turning radius of 4.9 meters worked well for me as well as its insulated interior.

The manufacturer's fuel consumption as per Department of Energy is 14.47km/l for the MX.

**Verdict:** If you have P840,000 to spare and don't mind driving sporty cars with chromes, go get an "intelligent" Lancer MX.

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# AAP elects new officers

THE AUTOMOBILE Association Philippines (AAP, formerly Philippine Motor Association) elected new officers and directors during its 72nd anniversary celebration and general membership meeting at the Century Park Grand Ballroom last week.

Antonio L. Mapa, who has been vice president since 1999, was elected president. Augusto C. Lagman, former treasurer, is now the vice president while Jacinto M. Mantaring Jr. was elected treasurer. Jose Armando L. Eduque and Nestor M. Mejia retain their posts as executive director and corporate secretary, respectively.

David Arcenas, Gen. Angel L. Kanapi (ret.) and Ronald D. Reidenbach were reelected to the board. The new directors are Johnny Angeles, former executive director, and newspaper columnist Aida Sevilla Mendoza. Carlos D. Arguelles, the outgoing president, had indicated his desire to retire from the board before last week's meeting. Arguelles has served as president since 1999 after 20 years as vice president, and will remain an AAP member and consultant.

The AAP, the national auto club of the Philippines, is the only organization affiliated with the AIT and FIA (Federation Internationale de l'Automobile). As such, the AAP is the governing body for all four-wheel motor sport competitions in the country and the only one authorized to issue international driving permits. It oversees the implementation of FIA racing rules, with emphasis on the safety of participants as well as spectators, and posts an ambulance (the AAP has three) at every motor sport event. The AAP also has eight tow trucks and three flatbed trucks to provide roadside assistance to its members. To date, it has 30,714 members nationwide who, among other benefits, are entitled to discounts at 16 motoring-related commercial establishments.

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# Safety driving a world concern

**FULL TANK**

*Al Mendoza*

HONDA has a new pitch for safety.

In the wires last week was a report saying the giant car company has developed the world's first system that allows the car to predict a collision. It is called the Collision Mitigation Brake System (CMS). It specifically targets rear-end collisions.

Not only that. The new gadget will also control/influence brake operations.

* * *

**The new system will be installed in Honda's new baby, named Inspire for the Japan market. It will be combined with the "E-Pretensioner" seatbelt retraction mechanism.**

**Honda's move is another giant step toward safety driving. It should spark a new wave of approaches toward improving the safety features of every vehicle being rolled out into the road.**

**Volvo leads the world auto industry insofar as safety gadget is concerned. I'm glad Honda has strengthened its energies toward this end.**

* * *

Honda's new babe will assist brake operation to reduce impact on vehicle occupants. It can read the likelihood of a collision based on driving conditions, distance to the vehicle ahead, and relative speeds, and uses visual and audio warnings to prompt the driver to take preventative action.

There's more to it than meets the eye.

It can also initiate braking to reduce the vehicle's speed. The new system will be installed in the new Inspire scheduled for release next month.

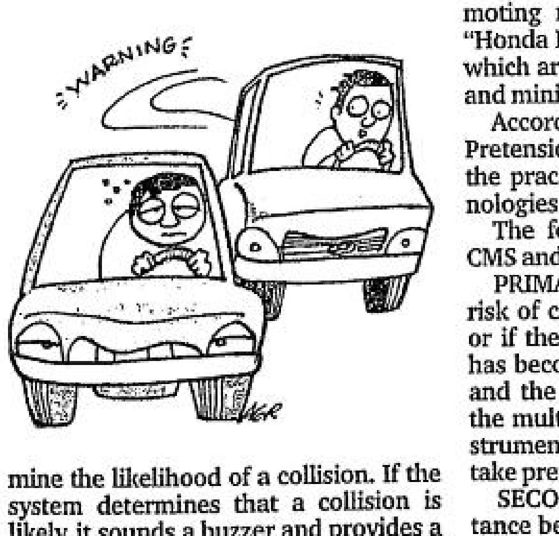
* * *

**You want some more?**

**The CMS and E-Pretensioner use a millimeter-wave radar to detect vehicles ahead within a range of 100 meters, and then calculate the distance between the vehicles, the relative vehicle speeds, and the anticipated vehicle path to determine the likelihood of a collision. If the system determines that a collision is likely, it sounds a buzzer and provides a tactile warning, tightening the seatbelt to prompt the driver to take preventative action.**

I can't wait to see this.

* * *



The system also incorporates a number of functions to reduce impact on occupants in the event an impact is unavoidable, including a brake assist function that compensates for insufficient pedal pressure to reduce the speed of impact. It also initiates immediate seatbelt control, which increases seatbelt tension to hold the driver more securely in place.

I have heard it said repeatedly that Honda has been into the safety business of its vehicles the past years, which Honda executive Arnel Doria had always tried to articulate to anybody willing to listen.

"Honda has always considered safety as one of the most crucial issues automakers face, and as such has long been active in the field of driver safety education," said Arnel.

* * *

**For years now, Honda has been promoting research and development of "Honda Pre-crash Safety Technologies," which are designed to predict collisions and minimize impacts.**

**According to Arnel, CMS and the E-Pretensioner represent the first stage in the practical application of these technologies.**

**The following is the outline of the CMS and E-Pretensioner Operations:**

**PRIMARY WARNING: When there is a risk of collision with the vehicle ahead or if the distance between the vehicles has become too short, a buzzer sounds and the message "BRAKE" appears on the multi-information display in the instrument panel, prompting the driver to take preventative action.**

**SECONDARY WARNING: If the distance between the two vehicles continues to diminish, CMS applies light braking, and the E-Pretensioner retracts the seatbelt gently two or three times, providing the driver with a tactile warning. At this point, if the driver applies the brakes, the system interprets this action as emergency braking, and activates the brake assist function to reduce impact speed.**

**COLLISION DAMAGE REDUCTION: If the system determines that a collision is unavoidable, the E-Pretensioner retracts the seatbelt with enough force to compensate for seatbelt slack or baggy clothing, providing even more effective driver retention than conventional seatbelt pretensioners, which only begin to operate once the collision has occurred. The CMS also activates the brakes forcefully to further reduce the speed of impact. The E-Pretensioner is designed to operate whenever the driver brakes suddenly and the brake assist functions, tightening the seatbelt to secure the driver even if the CMS has not predicted a collision.**

**MILLIMETER-WAVE RADAR: Detects vehicles within a range of about 100 meters ahead, in a 16-degree arc.**

**SENSORS: The system determines driving conditions using a range of sensors that detect factors such as yaw rate, steering angle, wheel speed, and brake pressure.**

**ELECTRONIC CONTROL UNIT (ECU): Based on distance to the vehicle ahead and relative speed obtained from radar information, and on the anticipated vehicle path as determined based on sensor information, the ECU calculates the likelihood of a collision, and warns the driver, and in some cases activates the braking function. The ECU exchanges information as required with the E-Pretensioner, the Variable Signal Analyzer (VSA) and the Meter Unit.**

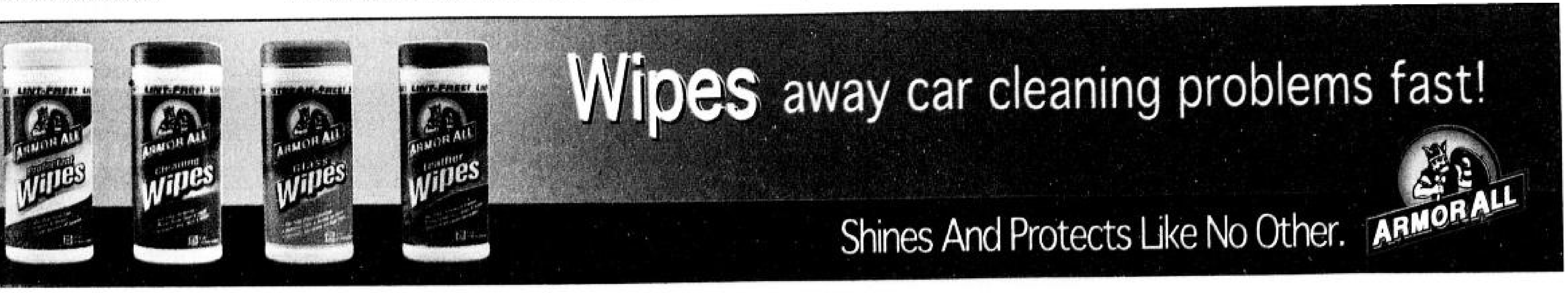
**So there. As I said, the new system will augur well in the world's search for a fool-proof formula to minimize, if not totally stop, accidents on the road.**

* * *

Hyundai, maker of the popular Starex family van and the newly released Matrix, recently launched Class (Certified Legitimate After-Sales Service). Owners of Starex, Matrix as well as the Santa Fe can now avail of as much as 50 percent discount on oil filters, 20 percent on brake pads and 25 percent on labor when they go to certified HARI service centers. If you ask me, anyone of those is quite a grab.

* * *

**QUOTE ME. The rains will be here soon. Check those wipers' blades now.**



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# The truth about test-driving

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*Aida Sevilla-Mendoza*

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For example, before BMW Group Philippines loaned me the X5 4.6is sports activity vehicle the other weekend, I had not done any test driving for two months since my immediately preceding test drive was the 2003 Ford Ranger 4x2 XLT in March. The Ranger was preceded by the turbocharged 2.0-liter Volvo S40 T4 in February, and the 2003 Toyota Revo SR and normally aspirated Volvo S40 SE in January.

## Digress

Allow me to digress about the BMW X5 4.6is. This BMW scared the hell out of me not because it was so fast (clocking 190 km per hour on the Skyway), but because I learned how much it costs—P11.3 million, minimum—only on the day before I was scheduled to return it. For three days, I was blithely driving it around town under the illusion that its SRP was "only" P4 million plus, like the X5 3.0 Diesel. Was I shocked when I discovered that it was the top-spec X5 and that it costs much more than the average house and lot in Metro Manila! I was lucky not to have been targeted by kidnap-for-ransom gangs who would have thought I could afford such an expensive car.

Going back to today's topic, another misconception is that the motoring journalist is the one who decides how many days he will test-drive a new car. It's the other way around, with the car manufacturer lending out a test unit for only a weekend, on the average, or for seven days, max. The test-drive period is short because many other journalists, both print and broadcast, are waiting to try out the new car.

Before you can get your eager hands on the steering wheel, you have to sign a legal document whereby you assume full responsibility for the car, promise not to let anyone else drive it, absolve the car company of any liability should anything happen to you or the car, promise not to use the car for racing or for hauling cargo, etc. In most cases, however, the document is a mere formality if the journalist is a mature, conscientious person who will take care of the car as if it were his/her own.

## Fuel policy

Car manufacturers have different policies when it comes to fuel. If you are lucky, even if you don't ask for it, the test car is brought to you with a full tank. But there are times when you will find that the tank is only a quarter full. At least one car manufacturer has a policy of providing only 15 liters of fuel. There are also a few who stipulate that before returning the car, you must refill its tank with the same amount of fuel as was consumed during the test drive. As far as I know, however, this requirement is rarely followed.

In general, the cars loaned to the motoring press for test-driving are ordinary vehicles you see on the road every day: AUVs, compact cars, medium-sized sedans, minivans, pickup trucks and common SUVs. Getting to drive a premium, high-end car such as a new BMW, a Lincoln or a Volvo for the weekend is a rare treat and test-driving a newly launched Audi, Alfa Romeo, Mercedes-Benz, Jaguar or Porsche is a thrill I still have to experience. The closest I ever got to a Ferrari, a Maserati, a Lamborghini or an Aston Martin was at the Tokyo Motor Show, where the latest models of these dream cars are always displayed.

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*E-mail comments to asevilla@inquirer.com.ph.*

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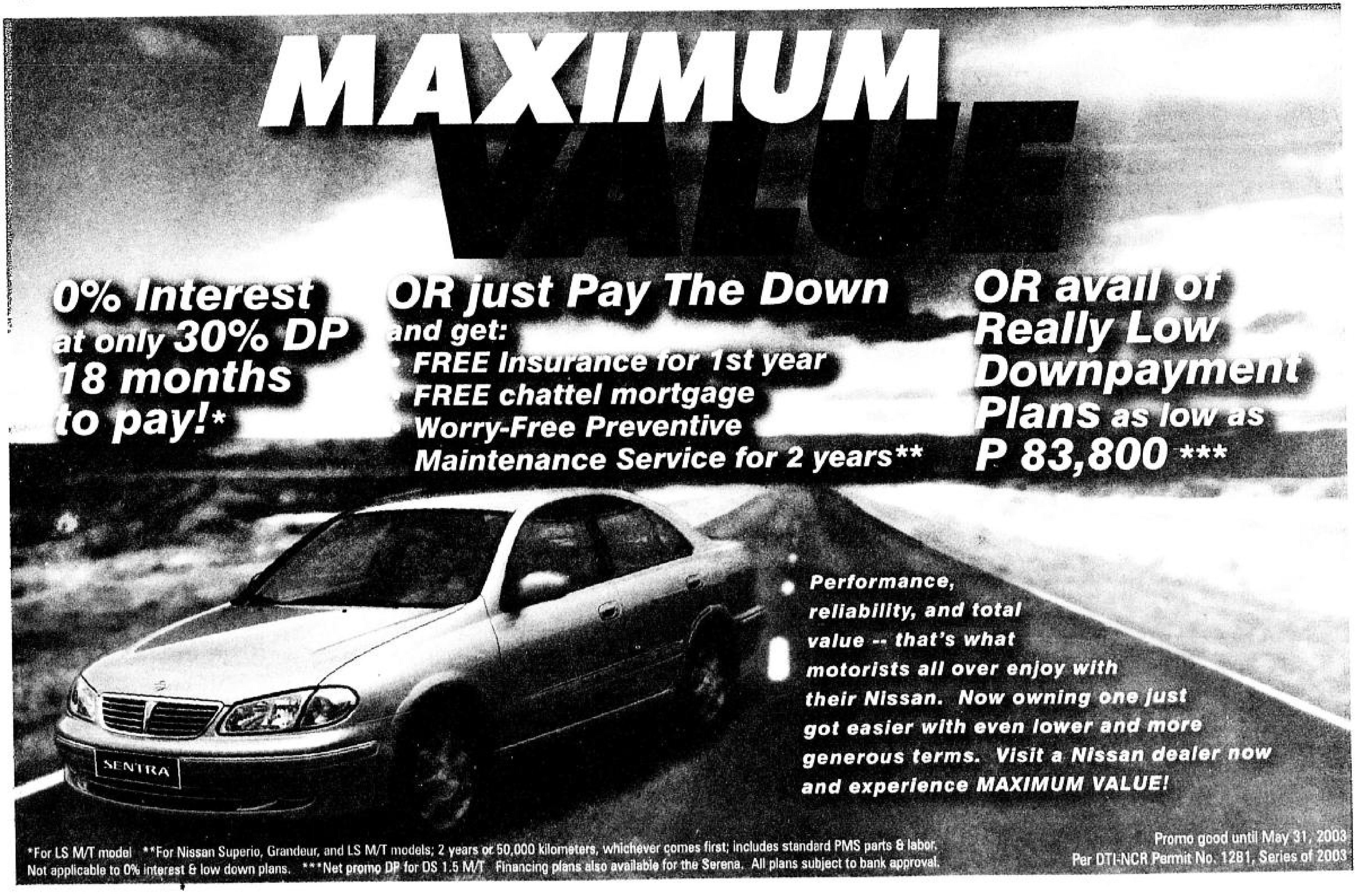

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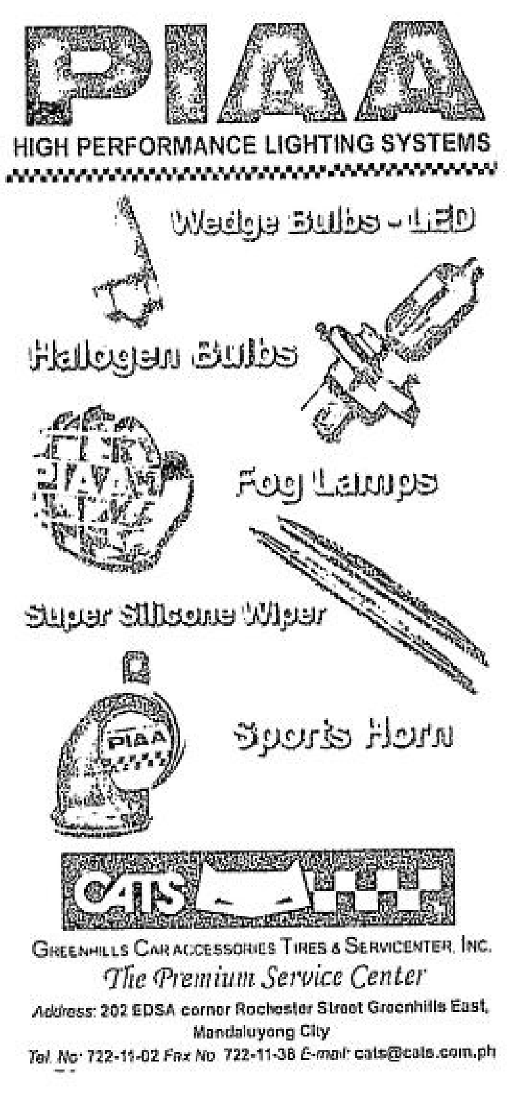

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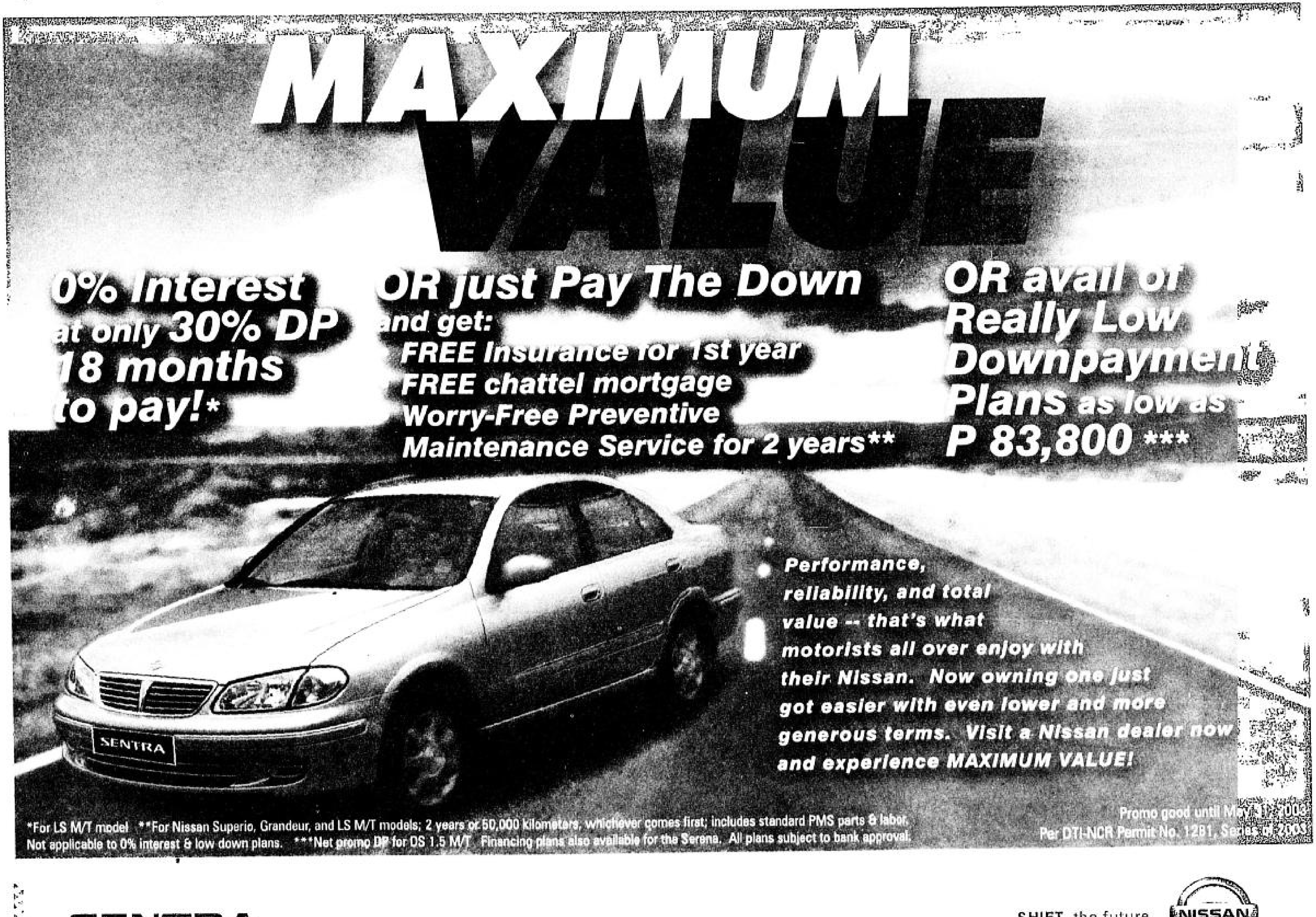

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# *Quedancor increases SME lending to ₱5.7B*

**By Christine A. Gaylican**

COMMERCIAL banks are now willing to commit more funds for SMEs.

QUEDAN and Rural Credit Guarantee Corp., the credit arm of the Department of Agriculture, has increased its target loan portfolio set aside for small and medium enterprises this year from P3.3 billion to P5.7 billion.

Quedancor president Nelson C. Buenaflor said the state-run credit firm has more funds available for SMEs because commercial banks were now willing to support the growth of these firms under the agriculture sector.

These commercial banks included the Allied Commercial Banking Corp., Philippine National Bank, Manila Bank and the United Overseas Bank.

Quedancor used to rely solely on the government's Agricultural Competitiveness Enhancement Fund for SME lending. This despite the fact that as much as 90 percent of registered firms in the Philippines are considered SMEs with less than P50 million in authorized capital.

Buenaflor said Quedancor was only able to lend P1.5 billion last year to agricultural SMEs because it ran out of funds for farmers and other small-scale entrepreneurs, which have applied for a combined P500 million worth of new loans.

In a related development, Quedancor has launched its Multipurpose Quedan Card, which would allow credit-worthy farmers to borrow money to finance their personal needs such as health and education.

"We came up with this multipurpose credit card because our study showed that farmers needed to attend to their families' needs first before they can concentrate on farming," Buenaflor explained.

# NEDA bucks Congress' plan to screen foreign borrowings

**By Michelle V. Remo**

THE NATIONAL Economic and Development Authority has opposed Congress' plan to subject the country's foreign borrowing requests to prior congressional approval.

Neda said in a letter to the Senate that the move violates the Constitution as the charter provides that the power to contract foreign grants and loans rests with the executive branch of the government.

Neda Director General Romulo Neri added that submitting requests for official development assistance funds to Congress would only complicate the process of getting foreign funds, and make the Neda vulnerable to political maneuverings.

Neda is the government body tasked to review projects eligible for funding through official development assistance (Oda) funds.

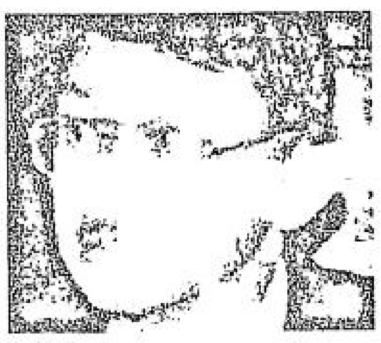
"While we would like to put more order and economic rationality into the Oda approval process, subjecting it to a congressional approval process will just complicate matters more," Neri said.

Neri said Congress should instead be regularly informed of the progress of Oda projects and be allowed to determine whether the benefits of these projects outweigh the costs.

"Congress should have the right to monitor and the right to be informed about the country's loans since Odas involve incurring national debt," said Neri.

A Neda official said that Congress has long been trying to require Congressional approval for Oda and other foreign loans, but prior attempts were shot down on grounds of unconstitutionality.

This latest attempt stemmed from Congress' moves to put a cap on the country's burgeoning debt level to address the debilitating budget deficit. Various versions of the debt cap bill are currently being reviewed in the Senate.



NERI

# Manila debt yields steady; market consolidates

DEBT yields were little changed yesterday with most market players content to sit pat after adjusting positions earlier in the week in the wake of a slide in rates at Monday's T-bill auction, traders said.

Trading hours were also shortened by 45 minutes as a result of a tropical storm battering Manila and other parts of the main island of Luzon.

The storm forced government offices to close for a second day.

Trading of government securities usually ends at noon.

"We're just consolidating, waiting for fresh leads after the drop in yields earlier in the week," a foreign bank trader said.

Treasury bill rates fell sharply on Monday on hopes of a near term easing in the central bank's monetary policy.

Secondary market yields followed suit falling 25 to 50 basis points.

Cash-rich banks have been heartened by budget deficit data for April and a steadier peso recently.

But these banks still want to see sustained evidence of an improvement in the government's fiscal position before bidding rates down aggressively again.

Some light trading was seen with four-year bonds changing hands at 10 percent, down 10 basis points from previous deals.

Five-year papers were dealt at 10.375 percent.

The average call loan rate in the interbank market late on Tuesday was unchanged at 7.06 percent.

Volume fell to P2.24 billion from P5.65 billion previously. There were six lenders and six borrowers.

*Reuters*

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Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

ILLUSTRATIONS: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

# To sub or not to sub

## KITCHEN RESCUE

Reggie Aspiras

IN YOUR May 15 column, someone asked you what's a good substitute for arborio rice. You replied that it's readily available at Santi's Deli (it seems like you're affiliated with this) and you also suggested that "ingredient substitution" should be a last resort.

In the *kare-kare* section of the same column, you listed "peanut butter" instead of the good old ground roasted peanut as one of the main ingredients. That to me is "ingredient substitution" of the worst kind. Roasted peanuts are readily available everywhere; there is no reason to use peanut butter. You are a columnist. Please be mindful of what you say or write. People sometimes blindly follow what they read, so unless you swear by what you say, please do not write it.

ED

I find it my obligation and duty to respond to this letter to defend myself and the credibility of Kitchen Rescue, which I happen to take quite personally. I feel it appropriate that this issue be addressed. I e-mailed the following response to Edwin Gonzales immediately after receiving his e-mail dated May 15, with "Practicing what you preach" as the subject.

"Let's get right to the issues. I am not affiliated with Santi's Deli; it just so happens that I get most of my ingredients there, as it is most convenient for me. No different from me recommending Chef's Nook.

"As far as fresh ingredients are concerned, Santi's seem to have the fastest turnover of fresh produce, hence ensuring better and fresher products. Edwin, I'd give an arm and a leg to even partly own or be affiliated with the deli. To date, I've not been given a discount even after 10 years of loyal patronage!

"I give out specific places to source ingredients because my readers ask for them. As one who tries to practice what she preaches, I then send them to where I personally get my ingredients. I see nothing wrong with that. Or is there?

"I live by the rule of no substitutions as best as I can. You must have missed the part that said I'm not a 'nutty-flavor lover' (which, of course, I am entitled to, as personal taste is the prime consideration here), so here's a part of the recipe: peanut butter, 'unless of course you're patient enough to roast peanuts and pound them to a fine paste. But since I'm not a real nut lover, peanut butter works well for me. I like the subtlety of it. Fresh roasted and ground peanuts are just too 'peanuty.'"

"Food is a personal thing. What may taste good to you may not to me. I am waiting for my copy of the article, as I am not certain which parts of it were edited. Just the same, I am copy-furnishing you with my complete unedited version of the column for your perusal.

"While it is true that I am a columnist, it is also my duty to impart as much information as possible to my readers. Being a specialized culinary instructor for over 10 years, I, too, have been exposed to students who have neither the time nor the patience to cook in a Neverland setting, owning the luxury of time to toast and grind nuts or to go out for each and every ingredient required by a recipe. So, included in my list of duties as a columnist is my being able to give alternatives whenever possible.

"See, Edwin, what counts is the end result. In our field, we have to deal with the circumstances that are dealt us—ingredient availability, the element of time, budget constraints, personal requests by our clients, etc. And we will have to find ways and means to get our food on the table on time, with it tasting as good as it can be and, more often than not, within budget!

"Hence, we are at times left with no choice but to make intelligent substitutions. And this is something that I'd like to share with my readers.

"As far as arborio rice is concerned, it, being the main ingredient in risotto, should never be substituted. Again, that is if you ask me.

"Arborio rice is high in starch content. The

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Hotpot & Shabu-Shabu Cooking: June 7 (Sat) 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Hotpot Soup base and sauces for seafood, beef and chicken; basic sauces: Garlic, Chili, Sweet Soy Sauce. Shabu-shabu set: Fat Beef, Porkloin, Chicken Breast, Vegetarian. Rice Toppings: Chicken Rice, Seafood Rice, Dumpling Rice by Chef Sita Ram. P1,000

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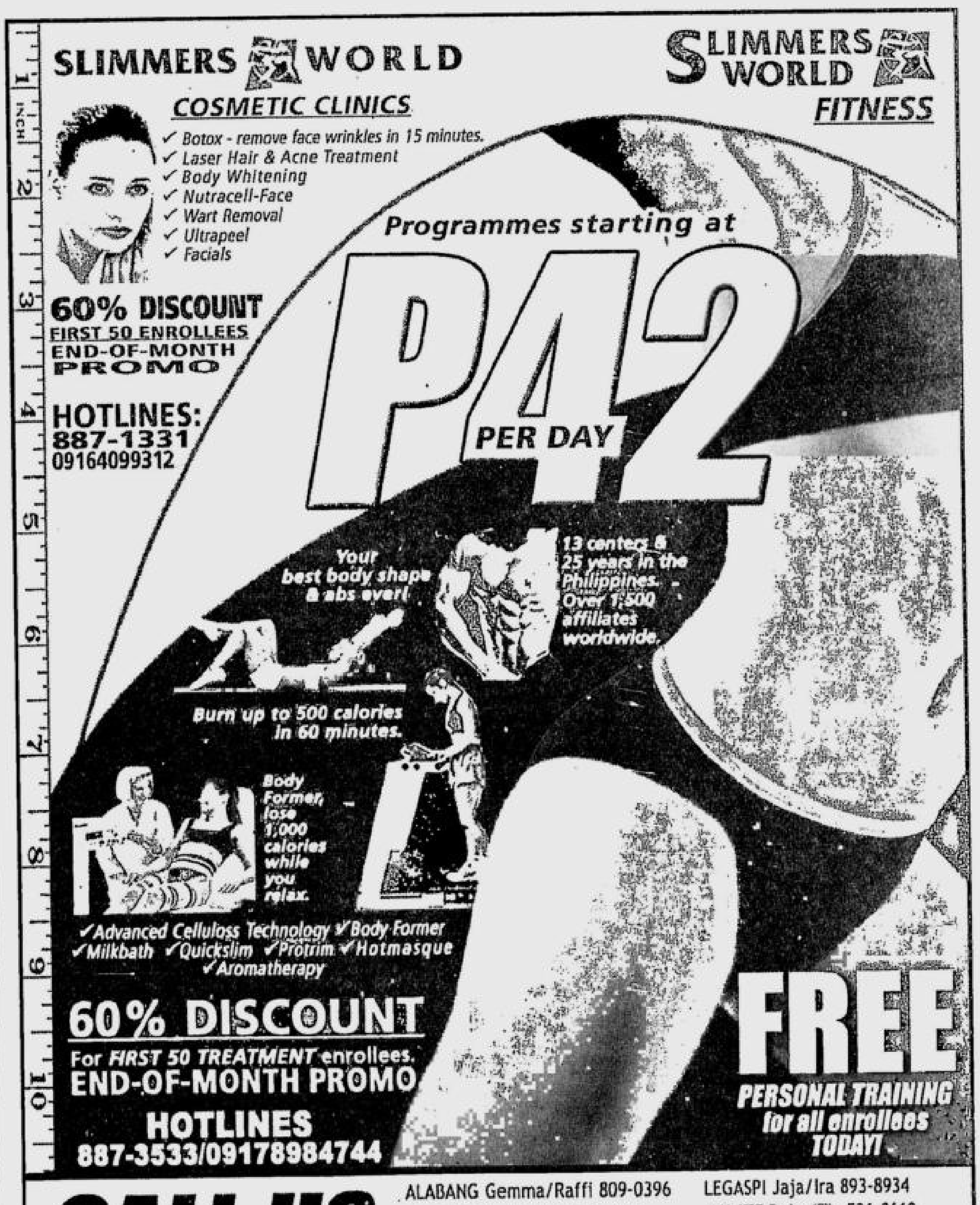
Restaurant Operations: May 31 (Sat) 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Kitchen organization, cycle menu planning, costing, cost control, purchasing, labor, payroll, inventory, etc. Proven techniques on profitable service operations with free lunch. P1,500.
Bakery & Bakeshop Operations: May 31 (Sat) 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Commercial methods used in preparing breads, pies and cakes including costing, production batching with actual hands-on. P1,500.
Baking with Institutional Mixes: June 7 (Sat) 1:30 - 5 p.m. Assorted Brownies (Black Forest, Apple Chunk, Rocky Road); Pineapple Carrot Cake, Choco-Banana Loaf; Chocolate Muffins with Fudge Frosting, Hotdog on Stick; Butterscotch Squares and Chocolate Crinkles. P600.
Pasta: June 14 (Sat) 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Lasagna, Chicken Cannelloni; assorted pasta dishes and sauces (Garlic Fettucini, Carbonara, Putanesca, Pesto and Negra). Bonus: home made pasta making. P700.
Gulaman Delights: June 21 (Sat) 4:30 - 6 p.m. Cathedral Window, Buko-Pandan Salad, Moulded Fruit desserts, Icebox Cake. Bonus: edible centerpiece. P500.
Pinoy Fastfood: (Carinderia, Pondohan, Lugawan, etc.) June 21 (Sat) 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Lecture on the technical and operational aspects of the business, hygiene, sanitation & safety, costing and actual cooking demonstration of popular low cost fastfood recipes; different kinds of Lomi, Pork Asado, Fresh & Fried Lumpia, Pancit Malabon, Adobong Pusit, different kinds of BBQ, Cycle menu sampler use of extenders, etc. P1,500
Japanese Cooking: June 28 (Sat) 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Miso Soup, Mixed Tempura, Sukiyaki, Kamameshi; assorted Sushi: Kappamaki, Tekamaki, California Maki and Nigiri. P800

CERTIFICATE COURSES WITH HANDS-ON FOR ADULTS (Pre-registration required)

Baking I (Basic): June 4-6 or 18-20 (W-F) 1:30 - 5 p.m. Techniques in preparing basic pie crust, different types of cakes, quick bread, yeast breads and more. P2,000
Cake Decorating (Basic): June 7 and 14 (Sat) 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Lecture-workshop on fundamentals of cake decorating; coloring, designing, template, icing (boiled, butter, caramel, chocolate, sugar icing); basic borders, jelly lettering, basic flower making and bunching and motif. Free decorating tips. P2,000
Cooking I (Basic). For Messmen, Stewards and Beginners: June 10,11,12,14(T,W,Th,S) or 24-27(T-F) 1:30 - 5:00 p.m. Basic food preparation, cooking methods for vegetables, pasta, meats and poultry dishes; Techniques of de-boning chicken and fish; Basic garnishing. Actual preparation of popular Filipino and Oriental dishes. P2,500.
Waitering & Bartending Basics: June 21 & 28 (Sat) 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Coverage: Creative techniques for efficient table setting and attractive arrangement, napkin folding and skirting. Suggested selling techniques, meeting, greeting and seating of guests; Use of magic words; Order taking; Table setting standards (American, Russian and French style); Setting up service station and checkpoint; Serving beverage and entree. Lecture on different wines and spirits classification, types of glasses, mixing and serving drinks. Bonus: special pulutan. P2,000
Cooking II (Comprehensive Cooking) For Career Cooks: June 24-27 (T-F) 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Coverage: Food hygiene & sanitation, Standard techniques of preparing basic stocks, soups and sauces applicable to 1001 recipes; salads and dressing; main dishes; potato cookery; pasta and rice; techniques of deboning and filleting fish and chicken; use of herbs and spices to cooking; basic garnish for plate and platter presentation. Free lunch. P3,000

For inquiries, visit the Maya Kitchen (Tuesdays thru Saturdays) at 8th floor, Liberty Building, A. Arnaiz Ave. (Pasay Road), Makati City or call tel. 892-1185 or 892-5011 loc.108, or e-mail us at mayakitchen@pacific.net.ph



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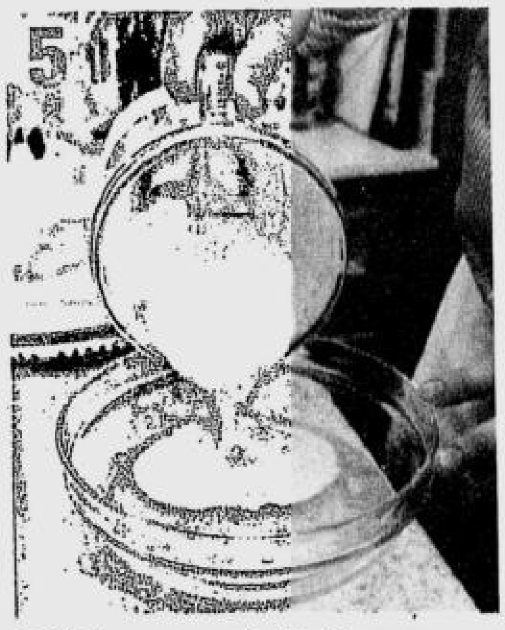
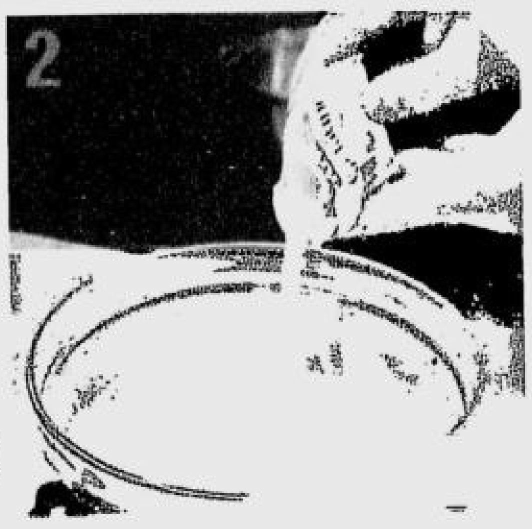
**PURÉE** the two other mango halves in a blender.

**ADD** the milk and blend again until smooth.

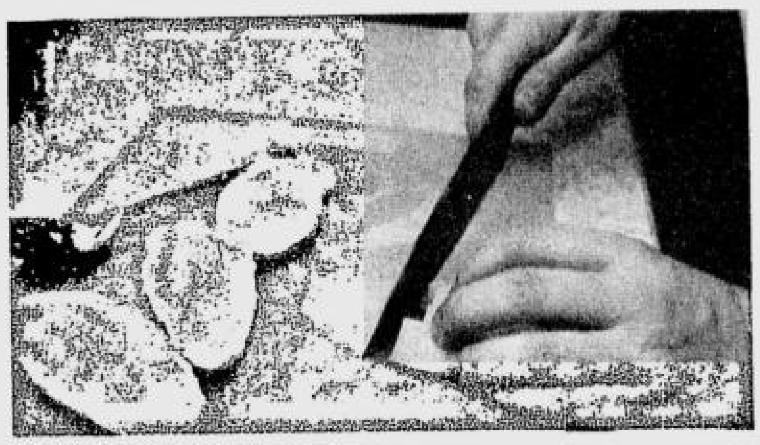


**POUR** the mango purée into the sugar-gelatin mixture. Stir well.

**DROP** the cubed mangoes. Mix well.



**COMBINE** sugar and gelatin powder. Mix well and dissolve in a pot of cold water. Boil the sugar-gelatin mixture, stirring continuously until melted. Transfer to a glass bowl and let it cool. Set aside.



**CUT** the two mangoes to make four mango halves. Cube the two mango halves and set aside the remaining mango halves.

# How to turn mangoes into prized pudding

**Text by Vangie Baga-Reyes**
**Photos by Johnny Villena**

## This sweet treat is easy to make right at home. Try it!

**STEP BY STEP**

SUMMER is peak season for mangoes, so it's no surprise that mango pudding is so popular these days.

Mango pudding is a simple dessert that captures the natural sweet flavor of mangoes. The delicate flavor of mango pudding is a traditional finale to most Chinese meals. But you don't need to dash off to the nearest Chinese restaurant to enjoy this sweet treat. Mango pudding is easy to make right at home.

Unlike heavier puddings thickened with cornstarch or flour, mango pudding's delicate texture comes from combining mangoes with gelatin. Most recipes simply call for unflavored gelatin.

The only real trick to mango pudding is making sure both the gelatin and sugar are thoroughly dissolved and cooled down before mixing in with the mango purée. You can also alter the sweetness level by adding or reducing the amount of sugar called for in a recipe.

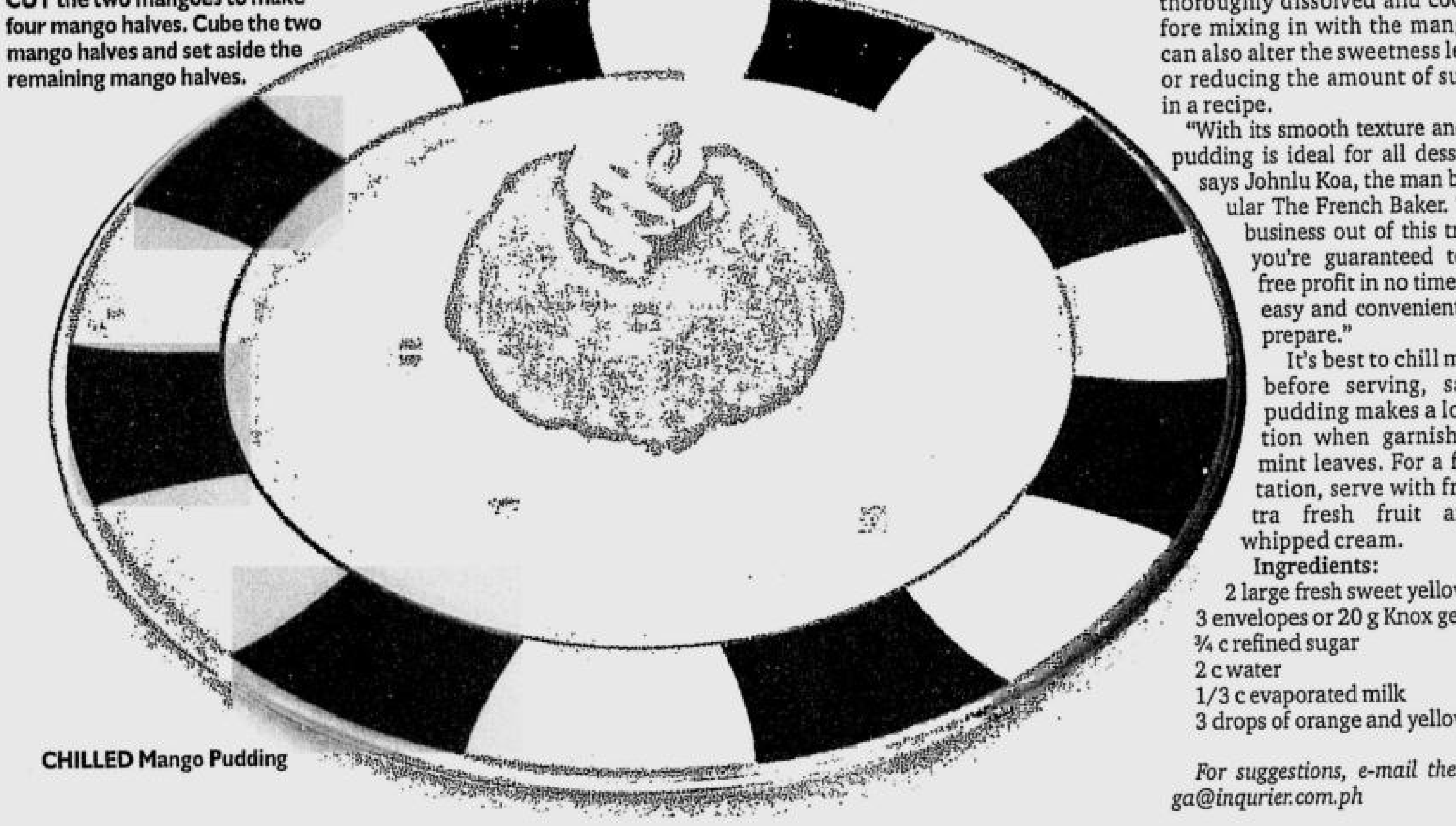
"With its smooth texture and taste, mango pudding is ideal for all dessert occasions," says Johnlu Koa, the man behind the popular The French Baker. "If you make a business out of this tropical dessert, you're guaranteed to earn hassle-free profit in no time at all. It is very easy and convenient for anyone to prepare."

It's best to chill mango pudding before serving, says Koa. The pudding makes a lovely presentation when garnished with fresh mint leaves. For a fancier presentation, serve with fresh cream, extra fresh fruit and top with whipped cream.

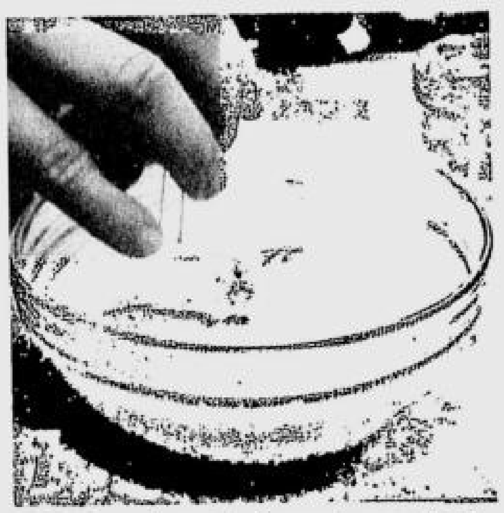
**Ingredients:**

2 large fresh sweet yellow mangoes
3 envelopes or 20 g Knox gelatin
¾ c refined sugar
2 c water
1/3 c evaporated milk
3 drops of orange and yellow food color

*For suggestions, e-mail the author at vbaga@inqurier.com.ph*



**CHILLED** Mango Pudding



**ADD** three drops of yellow and orange food coloring into the bowl. Stir.

**SPOON** mixture into plastic molds or into a deep glass dish. Chill for two hours to harden. To serve, turn pudding out onto platter, pour milk around the pudding and top with whip cream.

# *Cooking with mangoes*

SUMMER is that time of the year when our supermarkets' fruit section is filled with luscious, fragrant, sweet-smelling, bright yellow mangoes.

San Miguel Pure Foods Culinary Center using trusted brands and products from Magnolia, Monterey, Magnolia Chicken and Pure Foods Hormel, offers the following recipes using luscious mangoes.

If you need help in your kitchen or need more recipes to help with your daily meal preparations, visit www.mygreatfood.com or send a self-addressed stamped envelope to San Miguel Pure Foods Culinary Center, Legaspi corner Eagle Streets, Barrrio Ugong, Pasig City.

### Grilled Pork Tenderloin with Mango-Mint Salsa

½ kg Monterey Pork Tenderloin
1 c Sprite
¼ c tomato sauce
½ c brown sugar
1 tbsp minced garlic
2 tbsp soy sauce
½ tsp ground black pepper
½ tsp salt

**Mango-Mint Salsa:**

1 c chopped ripe mangoes
2 tbsp chopped spring onions
¼ c chopped fresh mint
1 tbsp fresh lemon or lime juice
ground black pepper to taste

Combine ingredients of the marinade in a bowl. Mix well and add ½ kilo of meat. Marinate in the refrigerator for at least 30 minutes. Remove meat from marinade and grill over moderate heat until cooked through. Slice just prior to serving.

Combine all salsa ingredients in a bowl. Mix well. Chill until ready to serve. Makes 4-6 servings.

### California Temaki with Magnolia Cream Cheese Spread

1 c Japanese rice
1 pack Nori wrapper

**Vinegar dressing:**

2 tbsp rice vinegar
2 tbsp sugar
1 tsp salt

**Filling:**

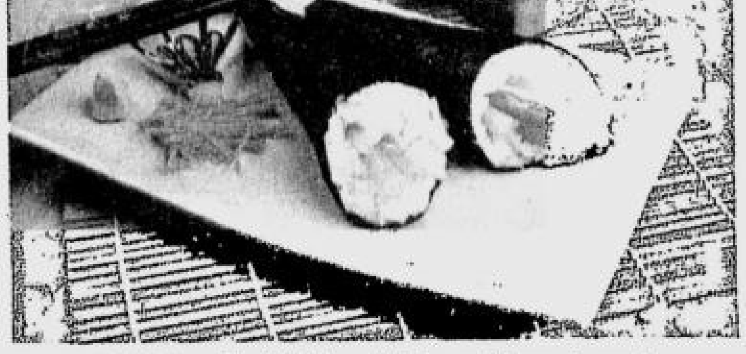
½ c ripe mango, cut into strips
½ c cucumber, cut into strips
8 pcs kani (imitation crab meat)
1/3 cup Magnolia Cream Cheese Spread

Heat rice vinegar in a small pan over low heat. When warm, add the sugar and salt and stir until they are dissolved. Let cool.

Cook rice according to package directions. Then place in a mixing bowl to cool. Sprinkle the vinegar dressing evenly over the rice and cover with a damp towel to keep it from drying out.

To assemble, divide Nori wrapper into two (crosswise). Fill half side of the wrapper with rice and flatten it. Place a piece of mango, cucumber and kani in the middle of the flattened rice. Pipe a teaspoon of cream cheese spread on top of the filling and roll into a cone shape.

Serve with premium soy sauce and wasabi. Makes 8 servings.



**CALIFORNIA** Temaki with Magnolia Cream Cheese Spread

### Chunky Mango Cheesecake

**Crust:**

1 ½ c graham cracker crumbs
1/3 c Bakers Best Margarine, melted
2 tbsp sugar

**Filling:**

1 pkg Magnolia Cream Cheese, softened
¼ c sugar
1 tbsp unflavored gelatins dissolved in 3 tbsp full cream milk
1 c all purpose cream
1 ½ c ripe mangoes, diced

**Topping:**

ripe mangoes, sliced

To make crust, mix crumbs, margarine and sugar together. Press into a 9" removable bottom pan or 8 individual mini round pans.

For the filling, beat cream cheese and sugar until light and well blended. Meanwhile dissolve unflavored gelatin in milk over low heat and add to cream cheese mixture. Continue beating to blend well. In a separate bowl, whip cream until stiff and fold into the cream cheese mixture. Add diced mangoes and pour into crumb-lined pan. Chill for at least 6 hours. Makes 8 servings.

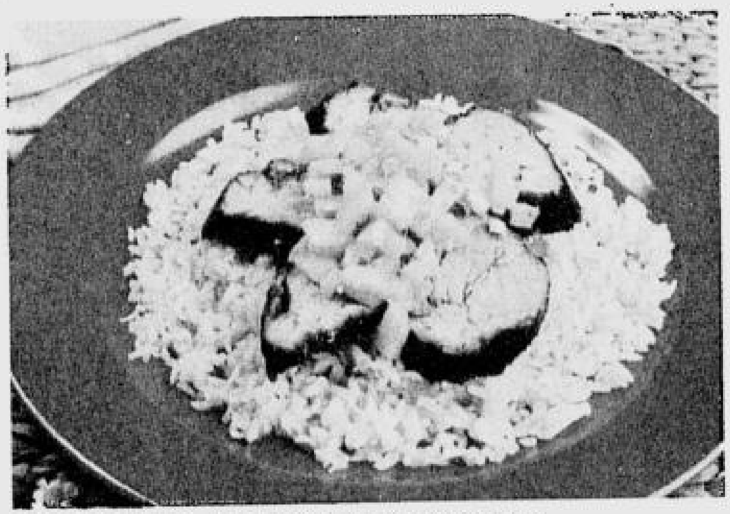
### Crispy Corned Beef and Mango Salad

3 c green mangoes, sliced into thin strips (julienne)
¼ c chopped fresh coriander (wansoy)
¼ c chopped toasted peanuts
1 210-gm can Purefoods Corned Beef
cooking oil for deep frying

**Dressing:**

2 tbsp sugar
¼ c fish sauce (*patis*)
¼ c lime (*dayap*)
1 pc chili pepper (*sili labuyo*), chopped (optional)

Deep fry corned beef until crisp. Drain and set aside. For the dressing, combine all ingredients in a bowl. Mix well. To assemble, place a cup of sliced mangoes on a salad plate. Top with ¼ cup of crispy corned beef and a tablespoon of coriander and peanuts. Drizzle with 2 to 3 tablespoons of dressing. Serve immediately. Makes 3 to 4 servings.



**GRILLED** Pork Tenderloin with Mango-Mint Salsa

### Chicken Pork Mango Trio

½ kg Magnolia Chicken Breast Fillet, cubed
½ kg Monterey Pork Tenderloin, cubed
½ c all purpose flour
½ c cornstarch
½ to 2/3 c water
2 tbsp chicken marinade (store-bought)
cooking oil for frying
1 tbsp ginger, sliced into strips
4 tsp premium soy sauce
3 tbsp brown sugar
1 tbsp cornstarch
1 pc chicken bouillon cube
1 c water
1 tsp sesame oil
2 tbsp chopped spring onions
2 pcs ripe mangoes, peeled and cut into strips

Mix flour, cornstarch, water and chicken marinade in a bowl. Mix well to form a smooth batter. Dip chicken and pork pieces and deep fry in hot oil. Drain and set aside.

Remove oil from pan and leave about ¼ cup only. Stir fry ginger. Add the rest of the ingredients and let boil. Reduce heat to a simmer and add cooked chicken and pork.

Remove from heat and stir in mangoes and spring onions. Serve with warm cooked rice. Makes 8 servings.

# Think green and delicious

JADE Garden's vegetarian suggestions

CHINESE cuisine that offers something herbal and natural with taste as good as the usual rich Chinese dishes? Why not?

At Jade Garden Chinese Restaurant, one whole page of the menu is devoted to vegetarian suggestions. Soups like Hot and Sour and Mashed Winter Melon with Two Kinds of Mushrooms are good starters. All the vegetarian entrées are cooked only with corn oil.

In accordance with the Buddhist practice, eggs, garlic, spring onion and oyster sauce are not used for these vegetarian dishes as these ingredients negate the calmness that Buddhists seek when eating natural food.

Two set menus (for 10-12 persons at P3,100+; 5-6 persons at P1,600+) are offered, consisting of deep-fried taro balls, sichuan beancurd, winter melon with straw mushrooms soup, beancurd sticks with lemon sauce, minced *singkamas* served with lettuce, eggplants and young corn in tausi sauce, fried noodles with lo hon vegetables, fried rice with mixed vegetables and almond jelly with fruit cocktail for dessert.

Open for lunch and dinner, Jade Garden is at Greenbelt 1, Ayala Center, Makati (tel. nos. 892-2636, 812-4548).

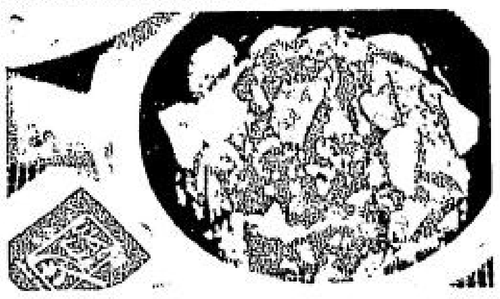
# Special promo extended

## DINING OUT

**YOSHINOYA**, considered to be the oldest and most popular restaurant chain in Japan offers reasonably priced dishes in its five branches at SM Southmall, SM Bicutan, Park Square Ayala Center Makati, SM Megamall and Metropoint Mall. The rice-based dishes follow only the original recipes. Apart from rice bowls, Yoshinoya also offers kimchi and miso soup, desserts like fruit salad and coffee jelly, and green iced tea.

YOSHINOYA'S Beef Bowl

**WEST Lake**, with branches in Eastwood City, Libis, and Stop Over Expansion in the Bonifacio Global City, has consultant chefs from Shanghai and Hong Kong. House specialty is Hong Kong Fried Rice that comes in seven varieties. West Lake is at Fuente Circle in Eastwood City, Libis, with tel. 421-9981 to 82, and at the Stop Over Expansion of the Bonifacio Global City, Taguig, with tel. 815-4652 and 818-4112.



WEST Lake's Beef Brisket with Rice

**DUSIT Hotel Nikko** has extended until June 10 its special buffet offer of only P390 per person at The Café. Rate is subject to customary service charge and applicable government tax. Call 867-3333 local 3346.

**HATSU Hana Tei**'s chef prepares Kaiseki meals that traditionally follow the season to ensure freshness. In addition, they also make several a la carte entrées including a variety of sushi, tempuras and stews in pots, as well as grilled robatayaki and yakitori. The restaurant, located at the 2/F of Herald Suites, 2168 Don Chino Roces Ave., Makati, is open daily 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. for lunch and 6-11 p.m. for dinner. It also accommodates private meetings and parties for 6-12 people. Call 759-6388.

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Demonstration/Student Participation Classes

**Single Serve Desserts 2 (new course)** May 31, Saturday, 1:30-5:00 pm Green Tea Cheesecake, Baked Leche Flan with Macapuno Topping, Coffee Flavored Panna Cotta, Tri Color Cheesecake, Lola's White Gulaman with Fruit Cocktail Tuition Fee - P850

**Back To Baking Basics 5** June 5, Thursday, 1:30-5:00 pm Apple Upsidedown Cake, Vanilla Pound Cake, Poppy Seed Pound Cake, Icebox Cookies with Cornflakes, Almond Wafers Tuition Fee - P850

**For The Weekend Cook 2 (new course)** June 7, Saturday, 1:30-5:00 pm Honey Roast Chicken, Pan Grilled Rib Eye Steaks and Boneless Lechon Kawali served with store bought tortillas and homemade crepes and 3 types of sauces (Blue Cheese Sauce, Honey Mustard Sauce, Peanut Sauce) plus Buko Lychee Salad for dessert Tuition Fee - P1,000

Hands-On Cooking Classes

**Survival Cooking For Teeners (new course)** June 3, Tuesday, 10 am to 4 pm Adobo Flakes, Stuffed Chicken Rolls with Garlic Mayo, Pan Grilled Rib Eye Steak with Gravy and Mashed Potatoes, Baked Macaroni Tuition Fee - P1,000 (lunch included)

Hands-On Baking Classes

**Hands On Baking 3** June 17, Tuesday, 9:30 am to 5:30 pm A complete hands-on class for those who would like to make bread at home without preservatives and other chemicals. Everything is hand-kneaded the old fashioned way featuring the following bread basket favorites - French Bread, Pandesal, Sticky Buns, Rustic Potato Bread and Monay. Tuition Fee - P1,000 (lunch included)

Hands-On Cake Decorating Classes

**Fondant Cakes In Miniature** June 19, 20 and 21, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 9:30 am to 5:30 pm Move over big cakes, small cakes are in! 3 whole day hands-on sessions from designing the cake to baking, basic flower making and decorating using a new fondant formula. Each student will bake and decorate a mini tiered cake and 2 mini cakes perfect for giveaways and for intimate celebrations. Tuition Fee - P3,750 (lunch included)

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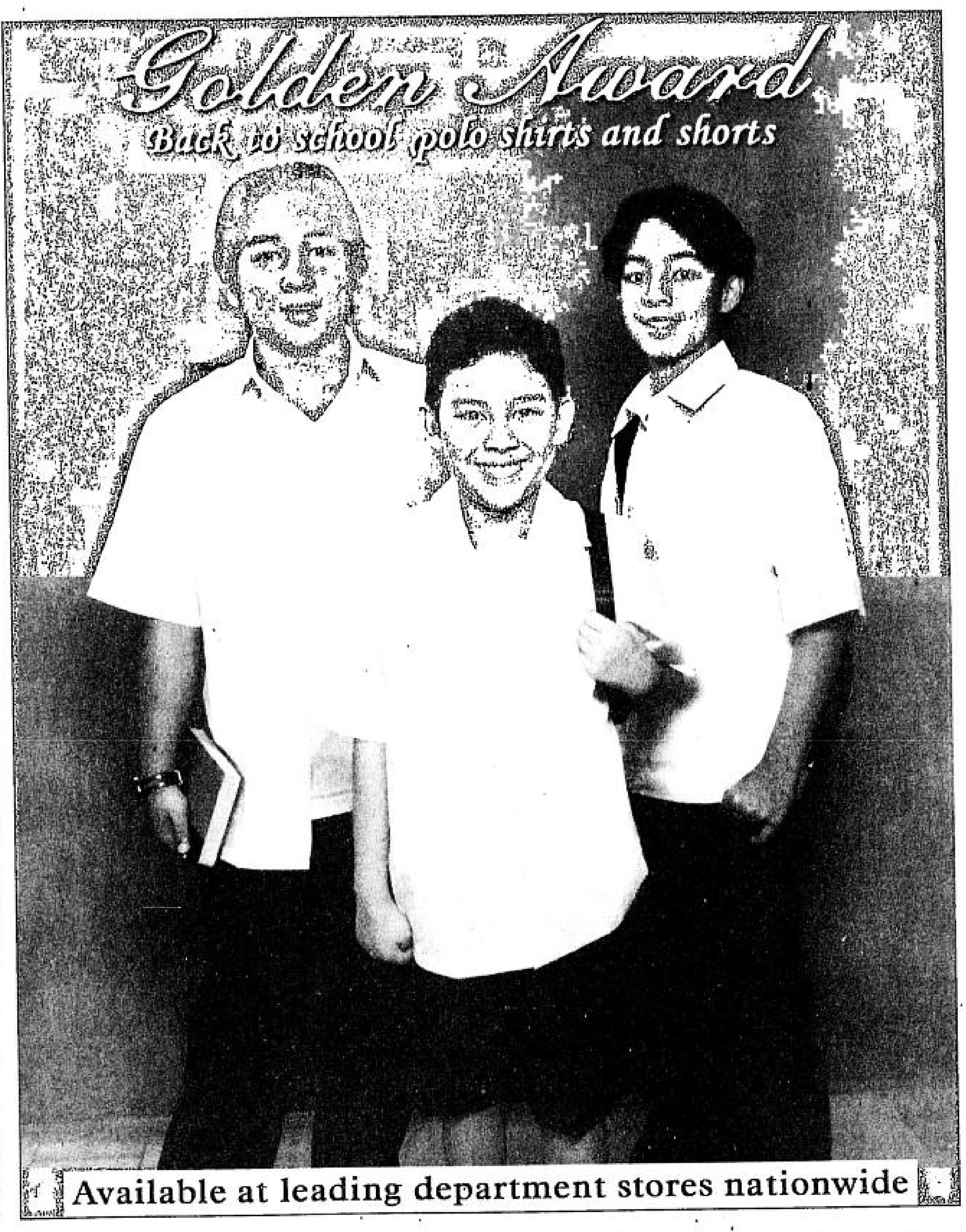

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- Taro Seafood Pie with Bucon Roll
- Dotted Lapu-Lapu Fillet & Bamboo Fungus with M. Wintermelon Soup
- Pata Tim with Bread
- Sweet and Sour Lapu-Lapu Fillet
- Crispy Fried Chicken
- Steamed Crabs
- Birthday Noodles or Fried Rice
- Mango Sago
- Butchi

Before ~~P7,800~~ Now: P4,800

Set Menu for 6
- 1/2 Peking Duck- 2 Ways
- Fish Lip Soup
- Baked Prawns w/ Superior Sauce & Fried Noodle
- Steamed Fish Fillet w/ Garlic
- Clams with Seafood & Wintermelon
- Fried Beancurd with Salt & Pepper
- Minced Duck with Lettuce
- Garlic Fried Rice
- Mango Sago
- Butchi

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Set Menu for 12
- Suckling Pig Cold Cuts Combination
- Lobster Mango Roll
- Dotted Lapu-Lapu Fillet with Shark's Fin Soup
- Peking Duck 2 Ways
- Black Mushroom with Local Abalone & Veg.
- Steamed Lapu-Lapu
- Minced Duck with Lettuce
- Fried Crabs with Salt & Pepper
- Birthday Noodles or Fried Rice
- Mango Sago & Butchi

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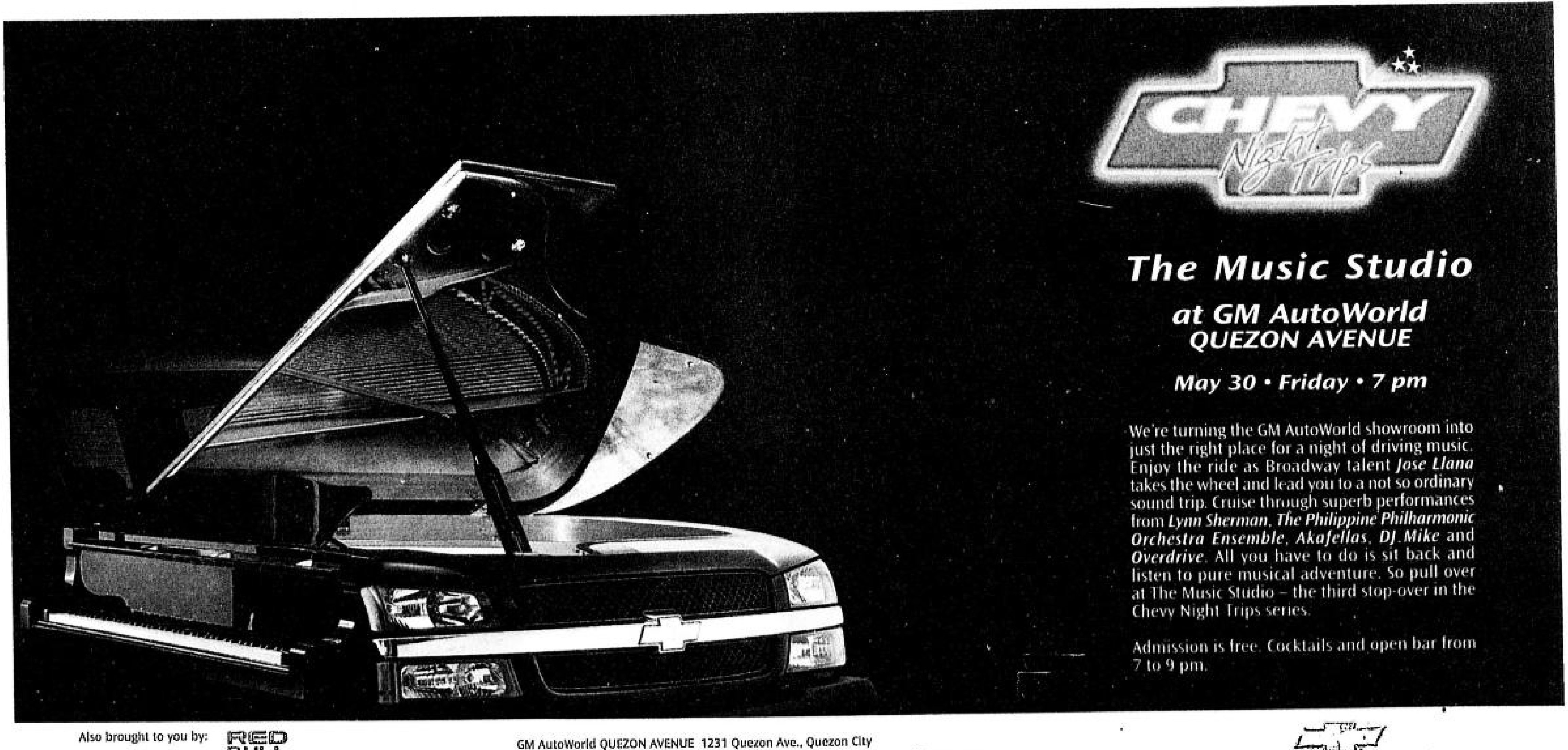

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CHEVROLET

# To sub or not to sub

From page C1

starch is gradually released as the stock is poured into the mixture. It is the quality of the rice, the gradual addition of the liquid and the stirring that give the creamy texture that, quite frankly, is the whole point of making risotto. In my mind, its substitution is as silly as making fried chicken without chicken and Paella Valenciana with Japanese rice.

"My mentor told me this and I believe it to be true: 'What is irresponsible is when one confronts an issue without first getting the facts straight and to question it further with very little knowledge of the topic or the issue at hand.'"

"Hope I was able to enlighten you."

> I live by the rule of no ingredient substitutions as best as I can, but it is also my duty to give alternatives whenever possible

## Nutritious dish

**Since you started your column, you've become a favorite of mine. I'm learning a lot from the questions of different people and from your answers. I do love to cook, too, but not allowed to eat much because of my high blood pressure. If I have time, I'll try some of your recipes that I feel my children will like. Keep up the good work.**

HERMIE B. MANALAYSAY

*Maraming salamat*, Hermie! As we all know, each of us needs a pat on the back and some appreciation for the things that we do. It pushes us forward and inspires us to do better.

As a token of my appreciation, I am sharing my spinach and tofu salad recipe and I'm even naming it after you. Here's to you and all the high-blood pressure readers of Kitchen Rescue!

## Spinach with Tofu Salad à la Hermie

This salad may use either fresh or blanched spinach. If you can get fresh imported spinach, I suggest serving it raw. Do not attempt to use local spinach, as I find it too grainy.

1 kg Chinese spinach leaves (*po lon chay*) or imported spinach, washed

1 tube Japanese soft tofu (cut into ½" discs)

3 tbsp each of black and white sesame seeds (toasted)

Working in batches, cook spinach in a large pot of boiling salted water until just wilted and bright green, about 15 seconds. Cool spinach in bowl of ice water. Drain. Squeeze spinach to remove excess liquid. Transfer spinach to large bowl. Fluff with fork (or just wash and spin spinach leaves dry if serving greens raw).

Arrange spinach leaves on a platter. Combine black and white sesame seed on a plate and dip the tofu discs until well coated with the sesame seed mixture. Lay on top of spinach leaves. Pour dressing. Serve immediately.

**Dressing:**

¼ c sesame oil
1/3 c soy sauce
2-3 tbsp sugar (or to taste)
2 tbsp white vinegar
2 tbsp water
Salt and pepper to taste

Combine ingredients in a bowl, mix well until sugar crystals dissolve. Serve with salad.

## Places to go

The rainy season brings with it the palette's yearning for comfort food. Check out JT's Manukan on Valencia, by Sampaguita Pictures. It serves hefty portions of the famous Bacolod chicken *inasal*. Though the *inasal* was good, I must admit that it was the spareribs that particularly got my attention. Ask them to slightly over-grill it for you. Yummy on a rainy day! We have Joel Torre to thank for that lovely overstuffed evening.

## Cooking class schedules

I am so sorry for not being able to reprint the past recipes that have been published in my column. I have to make room for the other readers and their requests. I hope the readers understand. The best solution is to never miss an issue of Kitchen Rescue! I will try my best to publish them in the succeeding issues.

For those who've requested my cooking class schedules, here they are:

May 30: New Age roasts and side dishes—rack of pork chops with apple onion marmalade and pineapple cucumber salad, sweet glazed roast duck with cassava and taro puree, ricotta-stuffed chicken with smoked bacon and broccoli and green pea puree, pepper crusted rib-eye roast with coriander relish and roasted garlic bread

June 2: Pritchon Made Easy—crisp fried *lechon de leche* done my way, served Peking style with homemade flavored pancakes and 12 sauces.

June 4: My Favorite Cheesecakes—caramel apple, ricotta sour cream with strawberry sauce, orgasmic mango, lemon curd, classic cheese cake with condensed milk and nut praline sauce

June 4 (afternoon class): Main Course Salads—greens with roasted tenderloin, asparagus and apples, stuffed squid and mango salad, crab salad and avocado, shrimp and spinach salad with mango and candied nuts, warm chicken liver salad, nut-crusted chicken and goat cheese, pork tenderloin and sweet potato saladjune

June 6: Gourmet Burgers and Buns—sour bread buns, herb and spice buns. from turkey burgers, rib-eye burgers, crab, Asian burgers, lamb burgers, mushroom, etc., 10 burgers and relishes, mayonnaise blends, sauces.

June 9: Roast Chicken Collection—chili-roasted with garlic gravy, sage chicken with Madeira, herb butter roast with onions and garlic, lemon and herb roast chicken, curry chicken with apples, parsley chicken roast. side dishes.

June 11 (morning class)—Cinnamon Rolls Like Never Before: Learn the Gooiest and Moistest Versions—classic, apple, citrus, chocolate and mixed cream cheese

June 11 (afternoon class): Gourmet Filipino Merienda—truffled *champorado* with *bacalao* chips, gourmet *palabok* mixed crisp toppings, milkfish *lumpia*, *gatang dinuguan* with *puto* bread, gourmet *guinataan*, gourmet stuffed *palitao*.

Monday and Friday classes start at 9 a.m.; Wednesdays, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. (morning class) and 1:30-4:30 p.m. (afternoon class).

Call Cynthia at 928-9296, 927-3008 or 633-5162.

The Reggie Aspiras School of Culinary Arts is held at the 3/F Bon Appetit, Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Edsa, Mandaluyong.

*E-mail the author at reggie1@skyinet.net*

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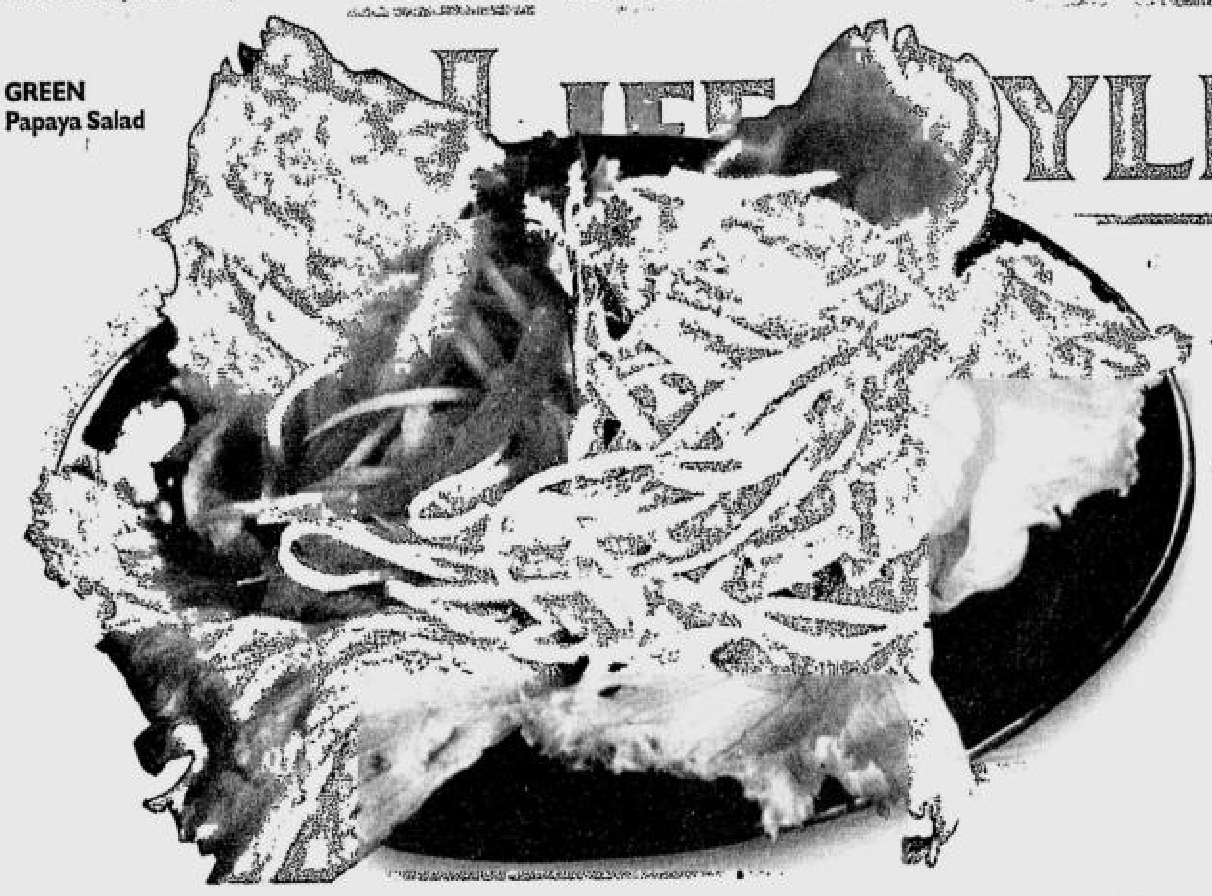

GREEN
Papaya Salad

# Where East quite nicely meets West

Text by Rowena C. Burgos
Photos by Romy Homillada

EXPLORING the cuisines of Asia is just the beginning of an exciting adventure that can expand diners' awareness and restaurants' menus. Just as Filipinos became curious about Italian food and wine several years ago, they're now exploring the vast Asian continent, from Japan to India, and want to experience the

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# More banking woes and some good news

**THE CONSUMER**

*Marietta Velasco Giron*

WHEN we wrote about readers' complaints against the abuses of credit card collectors, we did not expect that it would figuratively open a can of worms. Our mailbox these past two weeks was filled with letters from readers about the aches and pains of transacting business with banks.

In addition to harassment by credit card collectors, readers complained about unauthorized ATM withdrawals from their deposits, exorbitant service charges, and foreign exchange overcharging.

But first, here's a feel-good letter to depositors of Citibank from Melinda de Jesus, vice president, Quality-Global Consumer Group, Citibank N.A.:

"We thank you for sharing with us feedback you have received from your readers. Allow us to assure you and your followers that Citibank is a responsible lender. We take pride in doing business in adherence to high ethical standards. We do not condone unprofessional behavior and we regret the unfortunate experience of these people who have written to you.

"In the interest of consumer privacy, please extend our invitation to your readers to write to us or call our 24-hour CitiPhone at 995-9999 to discuss their concerns. We treat customer complaints seriously, and you can be assured we take action whenever valid complaints are brought to our attention. Again, thank you for your feedback"

## Send complaint to BSP

In response to increasing complaints of unauthorized withdrawals from ATM accounts, aggrieved depositors are advised to report their cases to the Bangko Sentral Ng Pilipinas (BSP). Write a detailed description of the complaint, specify the bank and the ATM system used (BancNet, ExpressNet, MegaLink), specific transaction, and your full name and address.

Send complaint to Deputy Governor Alberto V. Reyes, supervision and examination sector, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, A. Mabini Street, Manila.

## Depositors' complaints

A reader, who requested anonymity, wrote that she used to withdraw her salary from an ATM account opened in her name by her employer. When she transferred to another company, she decided to keep the ATM account open expecting that her remaining balance would earn interest. Being a first-time ATM account holder, however, she admitted that she did not know about maintaining a minimum balance in her account.

She said, "I started worrying when I didn't get my bank statement for a long time. I immediately went to the bank to inquire and was appalled by the information that my account had already been closed. It appeared that while I was drawing my salary from [my] former company... the maintaining balance was P100. However, when I transferred to another company, the minimum maintaining balance of my ATM [account] was increased without my knowledge to P3,000.

"Furthermore, when I requested the bank for copies of my statements of balance for the previous six months, I was told to go to their main office and pay a P500 service fee. I couldn't believe that I had to pay P500 when I already lost my deposit. I hope the BSP would look into the plight of ATM depositors."

Another reader, D. Seneca, also had something to say about unfair banking fees: "My husband and I have been working overseas for two years now. During our recent visit to the Philippines, we had to make bank transactions in Metro Manila for our accounts in two provincial branches, one in the Visayas, and the other in Nueva Ecija. We were not aware that after the transactions, we would be asked to pay service charges ranging from P75 to P200! The charges were supposed to be for such things as cable transfer fees, long distance call, fax machine, etc. Why should the customer shoulder these expenses? That's what we call *doble katay ng mga bangko sa depositors.*"

M.L. Cardona left P3,000 in her ATM account before she left for abroad a year ago. When she remembered the account, she instructed her sister in the Philippines to deposit money to the account. Her sister found out that the account was closed because it was considered a dormant account. "There was nothing we could do," Cardona concluded her story.

## Collector's harassment

Reader Wick Breck said a woman credit collector called him up in the office to tell him that the amount he paid the bank earlier was not enough to cover his dues. They got into an argument that wasn't getting anywhere, so Breck decided to hang up.

As expected, the collector called the office several times, all the while angrily uttering unprintable expletives. Not satisfied, she called Breck's house and rudely told his mother, "Your son is rude, no doubt he has no education." Of course, the mother defended her son. The rude collector yelled, "No wonder, your son is rude. He inherited the trait from his mother."

## Praises for Citibank

As we close the pages on bank woes, we conclude with this happy note from a satisfied Citibank depositor. Ria Berbano (berby_096@yahoo.com) wrote:

"My dad opened recently an account at Citibank. Confused about the intricacies of Citibanking, he requested me to clarify for him certain things with the bank. Much to our satisfaction, Citibank's phone operators were quite helpful. And there were very few operator transfers at that! Another commendable thing about Citibank is the state-of-the-art machines at its main branch in Makati. They even allow clients to pay bills without presenting the credit card itself, a tremendous innovation for people like me who sometimes forget to bring their important cards."

*Send consumer complaints and comments to mgiron@i-manila.com.ph or lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph*

# One big baking spree...

**From page D4**

¼ c white sugar
¼ tsp powdered cinnamon (optional)
½ c melted butter
*Filling:*
2 tbsp unflavored gelatin
½ c water
2 egg whites
¼ c white sugar
1 bar cream cheese
1½ c all-purpose cream
1/3 c white sugar
1 c canned blueberry pie filling
*Topping:*
1 c canned blueberry pie filling

Wrap the base of a 9-inch springform pan with aluminum foil. Reassemble the side of the pan together with the bottom and set aside.

To prepare the crust, combine the first three ingredients in a mixing bowl. Pour in the melted butter and mix well. Transfer the mixture to the prepared springform pan. Using the back of a spoon, press the mixture against the bottom of the pan covering the base completely. Set aside.

For the filling, disperse the gelatin in water and mix well. Set aside for 5 minutes to allow the gelatin granules to swell. Place over low heat and stir continuously until the gelatin granules have dissolved completely, taking care that the mixture does not boil at any point in time. Set aside.

In a small mixing bowl, using an electric mixer, beat the egg whites until frothy. Gradually add ¼ cup white sugar while beating the eggs at medium speed. Increase the speed of the mixer and continue to beat until the egg whites are stiff but not dry. Set aside.

Using the same beaters, in a large mixing bowl, beat together cream cheese, cream and remaining sugar. Pour in gelatin solution and beat until well incorporated. Add beaten egg white and beat only until combined.

Transfer the mixture to the prepared springform pan. Drizzle 1 cup of blueberry pie filling in the cheese mixture. Expect the blueberry to sink. Chill until firm.

Before serving, unmold the cheesecake to a large serving platter. Top with the remaining blueberry pie filling.

## Pichi Pichi

3 c grated cassava
2 c white sugar
1 3/4 c water
1 tsp *lihiya*
Grated cheddar cheese

Combine the first four ingredients in a large mixing bowl. Pour into a square baking pan measuring 8x8x2" and steam for 45 minutes. As an option, the mixture can be poured into mini muffin molders. Steam for 15 minutes or until transparent.

Allow the *pichi pichi* to cool in their molders. Scoop out with a teaspoon forming mounds and transfer to a serving platter. Top with grated cheeses.

*Dorothy MJ Ferreria offers cooking classes at Dorothy's Cooking School at 48 Third St., New Manila, QC. Call 721-7735.*

**CEF vice president and chef Philip John Golding, CEF executive director Rosette Yupangco with CEF scholars (from left) Michelle Chan, Enrico Caparas, Eugene Catipon and James Argao.**

# Fund-raising dinner for chef scholars

THE CULINARY Education Foundation (CEF) recently hosted "Soul'd!," a fundraising dinner and silent auction for its scholarship fund.

"Soul'd!" also marked the first anniversary of CEF's Culinary Store, a one-stop resource for culinary aficionados and restaurant and catering businesses. Held at the Azzurro and Chimes Restaurant at Somerset Millennium, Makati, it featured delicacies prepared by CEF scholars.

All proceeds of the Culinary Store, located on the 2/F of Cravings Center on Katipunan Avenue, will also support CEF, which helps deserving students complete professional culinary courses. The store carries kitchen appliances, culinary tools and equipment, chef's apparel and cook books.

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# Specialties in cans and bottles

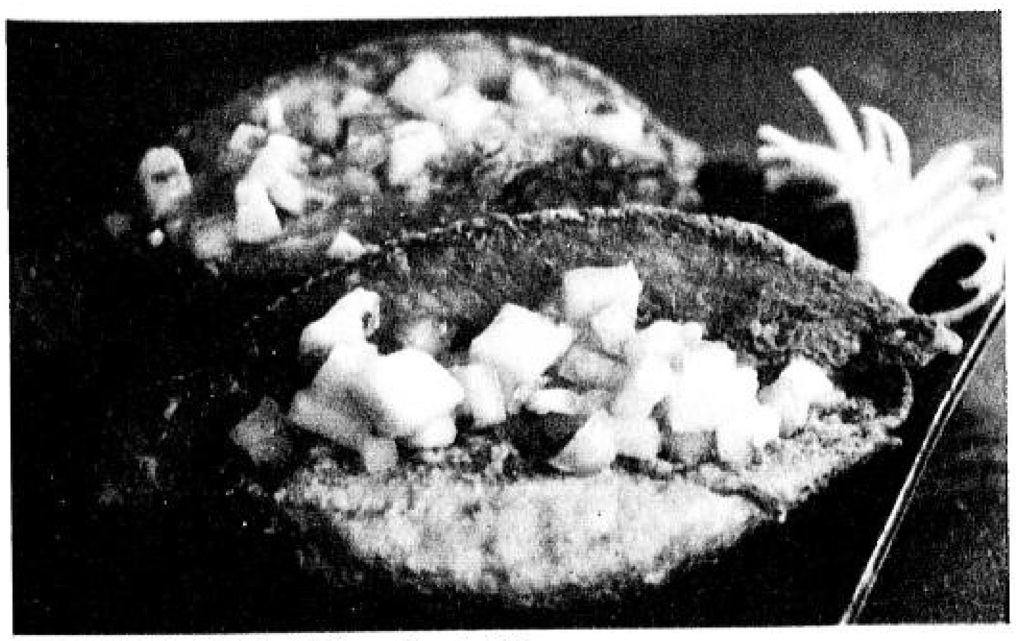
*BAGOONG* (fermented shrimp paste) and other home-cooked Filipino ready-to-eat dishes are now being sold internationally.

Barrio Fiesta Manufacturing Corp., the maker of these products, is exporting them to the US, Canada, Australia, Japan, Singapore, Hong Kong, Dubai and Bahrain.

The products are sold under the Mama Chit brand, referring to the Evangelista Ongpauco proprietress of the famed Barrio Fiesta restaurant chain, which she started in 1958.

It was her son Bonifacio who first thought of bottling *bagoong* and selling it to customers. When it became a hit, he began exporting the product.

The company also ventured into the canned manufacturing business. Kalderetang Baka, Pork Adobo, Bistek Tagalog and Guisadong Giniling, bottled anchovies, natural fruit juices and canned meat have been added to the list.



**PARU-PARONG** Tilapia with Mango Tomato Salsa

**SHRIMPS** with Roasted Chili Paste

# Where East quite nicely meets West

From page D1

cuisines of each region and country.

As a result, many restaurants have been looking for ways to introduce Asian items to their menus. One of them is Kainan sa Kalye Kanluran or KKK (tel. 371-9099), which has picked up the name of the Quezon City street it calls its address.

Located at 74 West Ave., near Examiner St., Quezon City, the 200-seater KKK is owned by Al Purugganan, Analyn Arce, Louie Ocampo Gutierrez, Dr. Raoul Paolo Henson and Minic Arce Romero.

"KKK's menu is a bit beyond Filipino food. It reconnects with our Asian roots," said Al Purugganan, a former kitchen supervisor of Taste of Thailand, restaurant manager of Shangri-La Makati's Salathip restaurant and HRM professor, who conceptualized KKK's menu. "Since Thai and Filipino foods have similarities, I thought of upgrading Pinoy food, which has to continuously evolve to be interesting."

"KKK stands for food revolution. We feature Pinoy dishes that evoke the spirit of Asian cooking," said Analyn Arce of Selecta Feeds, SelArce Farms and Arce Dairy Ice Cream.

"KKK's menu may borrow techniques and flavors from Asia through the use of ingredients like lemon grass but the dishes are still very Pinoy," said Dr. Raoul Paolo Henson of St. Luke's Medical Center.

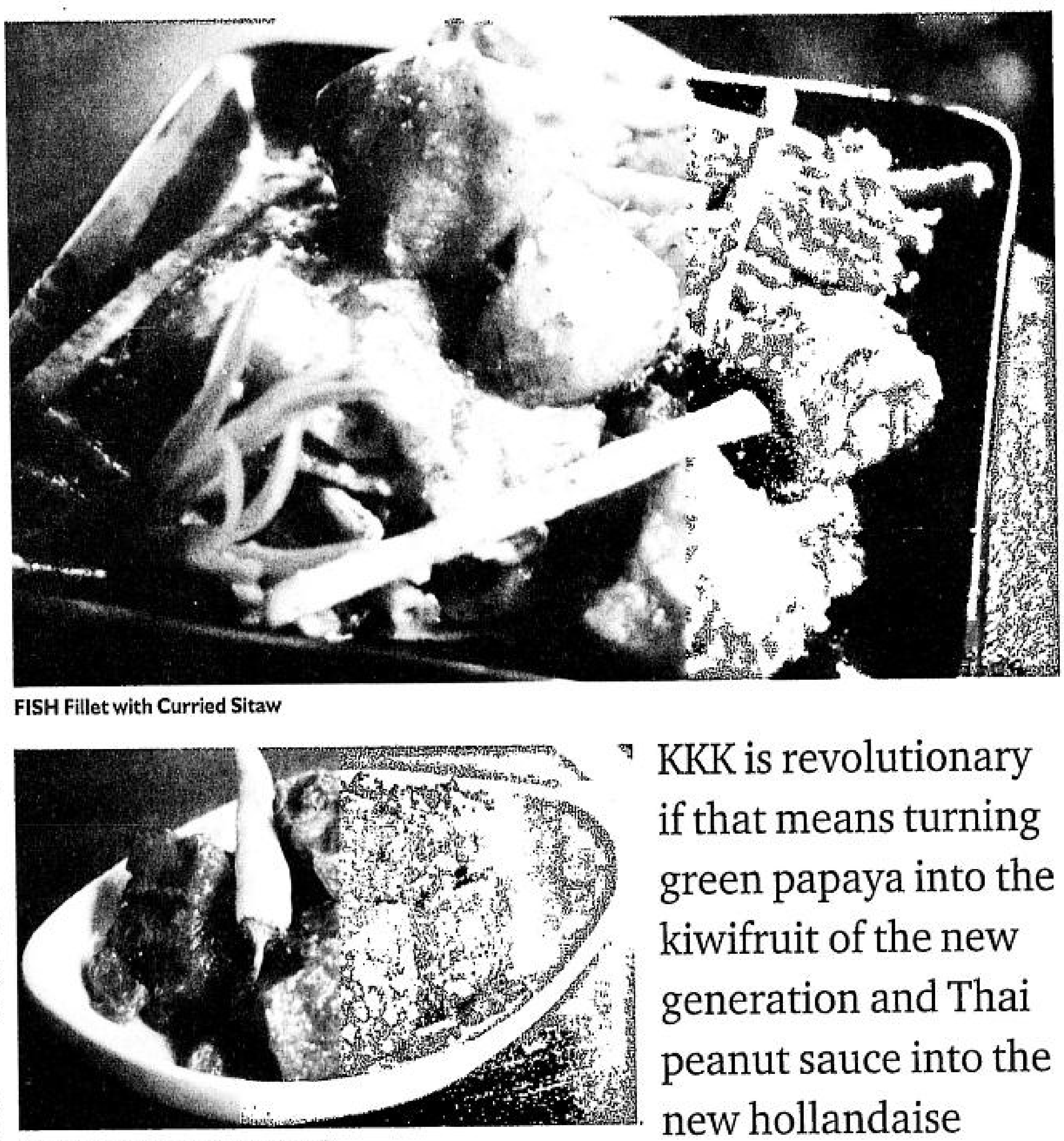
Indeed, Asian flavors have become hardwired into the Filipino palate, the signature of a generation that grew up eating pad Thai, sashimi and scallops with XO sauce as casually as if it were pepperoni pizza.

"It seems as if it's always been around, but Asian-influenced Filipino cooking has become the lingua franca of many chefs. They perform tricks with lemon grass and fish sauce. Green papaya may be the kiwifruit of the new generation, and Thai peanut sauce the new hollandaise," Gutierrez said.

## Specialties

Examples of KKK's Asian-influenced dishes are Thai Spring Rolls, Tuna Pika (fresh tuna with wasabi and Japanese mayo on crispy wanton wrappers), Revolutionized Sinigang in lemon grass broth and wansoy, Dry Beef Curry in coconut milk, Satenuhog (Chicken Tail Teriyaki, Tuna Teriyaki, Salmon Belly Teriyaki, Mushroom Teriyaki, Chicken with Peanut Sauce and Pork with Peanut Sauce), Unagi Style Hito, Fish Fillet with Sitaw and Curry Sauce and Pancit dishes.

Its specialties include Baked Tahong, Tinanglad, Sinampalukang Baka, Adobo ni Jake, Grilled Liempo Bacon Cut, Beef ala KKK, Manok sa Gata, Binagoongang Lechon Kawali, Shrimps ala KKK, Green Papaya Salad, Inihaw na Talong Salad, Pancit Koreano.



**FISH** Fillet with Curried Sitaw

**BINAGOONGANG** Lechon Kawali

> KKK is revolutionary if that means turning green papaya into the kiwifruit of the new generation and Thai peanut sauce into the new hollandaise

**BANANA** Fritters with Arce Mantecado Ice Cream

**INIHAW** na Liempo Bacon Cut

## Love for food

Passion for food is what has binded Purugganan, Arce, Gutierrez, Henson and Romero together for more than a decade now.

Within two years of planning, Gutierrez and Purugganan went to restaurants in Pampanga to sample the best dishes. On the other hand, Arce invited friends at home for food tasting and asked for their verdict on which meals tasted good. They also asked friends for old family recipes.

Arce and Purugganan both cook. Gutierrez, Henson and Romero, on the other hand, are particular about how food is cooked and how it tastes.

Most of KKK's ingredients come from Prado Farms, an organic farm in Pampanga owned by Gutierrez's brother Raymond.

"We enjoy the business. We fight over certain matters but not about money," Henson said.

The group got their taste for Asian cuisines through travels, recipe books and glossy food magazine articles highlighting culinary experiences that Filipino consumers hope to have when they go out for lunch and dinner.

"Once we became confident with the ingredients and techniques of Asia, we introduced specials to our menu," said Purugganan. He also added that, sometimes, quite common ingredients used in new ways or spiced with Asian flavors can make an otherwise ordinary dish a memorable experience.

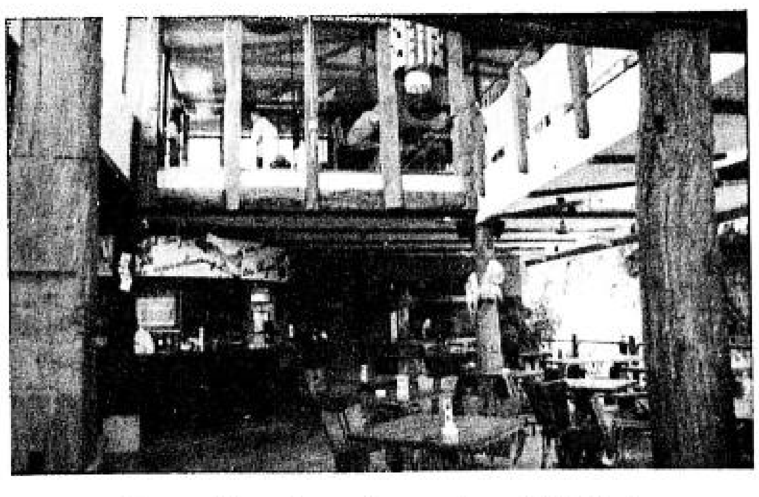
"Various ingredients have different functions in cooking and flavoring, and you need to understand that function, whether an ingredient is a salting agent or adds zing, for example. But don't throw ingredients together without that knowledge and sensitivity," Arce said.

The engineering of a menu depends on more than the use of authentic ingredients. It also takes research, experience, consideration and planning.

"There can be no doubt that Asian cuisines are happening in Filipino restaurants and will continue to blossom until, like Italian, many dishes and ingredients will have become mainstream," Purugganan said.

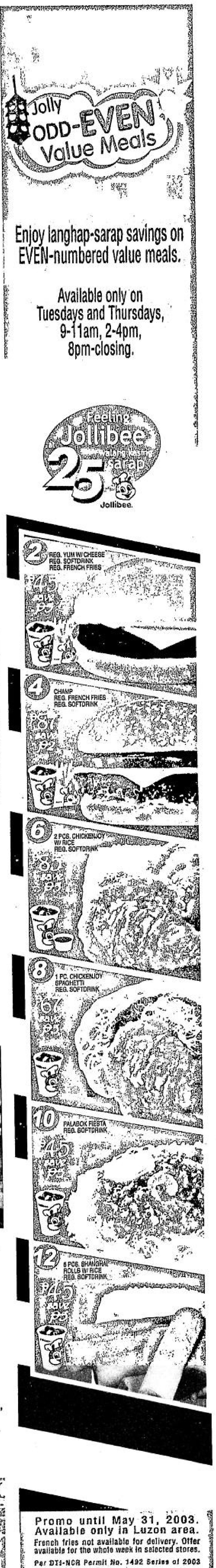
*KKK is open 11 a.m.-11 p.m., Sunday-Thursday; and 11 a.m.-1 a.m., Friday and Saturday.*

*E-mail the author at rburgos@inquirer.com.ph*



**KKK interiors were designed by the owners.**

**KKK partners Dr. Raoul Paolo Henson, Analyn Arce, Al Purugganan, Minic Arce Romero and Louie Ocampo Gutierrez**



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# One big baking spree before school opens

**By Dorothy Ferreria**
*Contributor*

SCHOOL is about to start and we get all types of requests from the kids: one last shopping spree, one last sleep-over with the *barkadas*, one last gimmick with friends or one last movie in the mall. How about an afternoon of baking? Here we give you recipes for easy-to-assemble desserts that you can do or ask the kids to do with their friends for an afternoon of fun. End the summer vacation with a fun-filled baking afternoon that will surely be memorable.

## Monster Cookies

1½ c old-fashioned/rolled oatmeal
1 bar baker's margarine
2 tsp vanilla extract
¼ tsp maple extract
2/3 c well-packed dark brown sugar
1 tbsp light corn syrup
1 tbsp fresh milk
1 whole egg
1 2/3 c sifted all-purpose flour
1¼ tsp sifted baking soda
3/4 tsp sifted baking powder
¼ tsp fine salt
1 c chocolate chips/chunks

Preheat the oven to 350°F. Line cookie sheets with baking paper. Set aside.

Transfer the oatmeal to a blender and process until fine and powdery. Set aside.

In a large mixing bowl, cream the margarine together with the vanilla and the maple flavoring until blended. Pour in brown sugar, white sugar, corn syrup and milk. Continue to beat until blended. Add egg and beat until incorporated.

Measure 1/3 cup of the cookie batter. Transfer to a cookie sheet. Do not flatten. Measure another portion and likewise transfer to a cookie sheet. Bake for 15 minutes for chewy cookie and for 20-25 minutes for a crispy cookie.

Allow the cookies to cool in the cookie sheet to firm up. When cool, wrap individually in cling wrap. To serve, top with ice cream and drizzle with bottled chocolate syrup.

## Very Blueberry Cheesecake

*Crust:*
1½ c crushed graham crackers

ONE/D2

ILLUSTRATIONS: STEPH BRAVO

| | Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner |
|---|---|---|---|
| **MONDAY** | Cereal and milk<br>Vienna sausage<br>Toasted bread<br>Butter and jam<br>Coffee or fruit juice | Breaded fried chicken<br>Vegetable chop suey<br>Rice<br>*Leche flan* | Sweet and sour pork<br>Rice or fried *bihon*<br>Avocado with milk and sugar |
| **TUESDAY** | Garlic rice<br>Chicken *tocino*<br>Coffee, hot chocolate or milk<br>Papaya with *calamansi* | Fried fish with sweet and sour sauce<br>Yang Chow rice<br>Almond jelly | *Bistek* Tagalog<br>*Gisadong* string beans and carrots<br>Rice<br>Mangoes à la mode |
| **WEDNESDAY** | Oatmeal<br>Bread<br>Butter and jam<br>Pan-grilled Spam or ham<br>Coffee, hot chocolate or fruit juice | Coleslaw<br>Turbo roast chicken<br>Rice<br>Papaya shake | Instant cream of mushroom soup<br>Spaghetti with meat sauce<br>Garlic bread<br>Monster Cookies à la Mode |
| **THURSDAY** | Hotcake with butter and maple syrup<br>Crispy honeycured bacon<br>Coffee, hot chocolate or milk<br>Papaya with *calamansi* | Fried fish with garlic mayonnaise<br>Rice<br>Melon à la mode | Cucumber salad with native vinegar dressing<br>Pork *menudo*<br>Rice<br>Canned lychee with ice |
| **FRIDAY** | Ham and cheese omelet<br>*Pan de sal*<br>Butter and cheese<br>Coffee, hot chocolate or fruit juice | Chicken *mami* soup<br>Fried *tokwa* with dipping sauce<br>Cheese *pichi pichi* or<br>Store-bought *putong galapong* | Pork barbecue with peanut sauce<br>Java rice<br>*Achara*<br>Refrigerator cake |
| **SATURDAY** | Plain rice<br>Sardine in tomato sauce sautéed with onions<br>Coffee or hot chocolate<br>Fresh pineapple | Prawn, fish and vegetable tempura with dipping sauce<br>Rice<br>*Buko* sherbet | Tossed green salad<br>Beef *mechado* with potatoes<br>Rice<br>Blueberry cheesecake |
| **SUNDAY** | Vigan *longganiza*<br>Eggs sunny side up<br>Garlic rice<br>Coffee or hot chocolate<br>Fruit cocktail with ice | *Inihaw na baboy*<br>*Inihaw na bangus* with tomato and onion stuffing<br>Green mango salad<br>Rice wrapped in banana leaves<br>*Mais con hielo* with cornflakes topping | Instant crab and corn soup<br>Steamed fish with mayo<br>*Pandan* rice<br>Fresh fruit platter |

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Globe MMS subscribers have the option of using the treat for themselves or sending it to friends or loved ones. Each Summer Bliss MMS message costs P20.